

# Hafa Adai! Happy Thanksgiving!

# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

**This week's poll:**  
Where do you intend to celebrate Thanksgiving this year?

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A New York University arts professor has a small digital camera implanted in the back of his head.

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**Man, 44, pleads guilty to sexual abuse of 2 minors. PAGE 7**  
**Bautista gets 6-yr. sentence for sex abuse of minor. PAGE 9**

## Bermudes is NMI teacher of the year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

A third-grade teacher at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School was adjudged as the 2010 CNMI Teacher of the Year, besting 19 other nominees from public schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. **See BERMUDES on Page 4**

CNMI Teacher of the Year awardee Raena Bermudes holds the certificate of recognition awarded to her yesterday as the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School's outstanding classroom teacher of the year. The third grade teacher was also hailed as the overall teacher of the year for the Commonwealth. With her is GTC principal Charlotte Camacho after the recognition rites on campus yesterday.

MONETH G. DEPOSA



## Judge: No order to exclude public at jury selection



Bennett

» **But no evidence that the public was allowed into courtroom**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

A visiting U.S. District Court for the NMI judge yesterday ruled that there was no order from either then federal court chief judge Alex R. Munson or the U.S. Mar-

shal's Office to bar members of the public or family members from the courtroom during the jury selection in the trial of former lieutenant governor Timothy Villagomez and couple James and Joaquina Santos.

In his 44-page opinion and order, visiting judge Mark W. Bennett, however, determined that there is "simply no credible evidence" that any members of the public

**See JUDGE on Page 4**



### SENATE DONATION

Members of the Senate pose with volunteers of the Operation CNMI Home Front Support during yesterday's turnover of donated goods at the Senate chamber. Items to be shipped in various destinations are expected to be delivered to service-members from CNMI around Christmas time.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

**See story on Page 4**

## 'House will nix changes to revenue-generation bill'

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) vowed that the House of Representatives will reject the amendments made by the Senate on a revenue-generating bill that originally sought to lift the excise tax exemptions for laptop and desktop computers worth less than \$5,000.

This, after the Senate in a session on Rota last Friday added a provision to House Bill 17-73 that exempts tourists from the 30-percent gaming machine jackpot tax for winnings in licensed ca-

**See HOUSE on Page 4**



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# Local

## PUBLIC PULSE

### What are you most thankful for this Thanksgiving?



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Sablan

I'm really thankful for having good health. I also feel thankful for my occupation that gives me something to do. This job also presents an opportunity for me to help the CNMI by sharing my knowledge and experience. I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

—**Martin Sablan**, *Department of Public Works Secretary*



Flores

I'm very thankful to my family and to the community for being patient with the Mayor's Office. I thank the Governor,

the Lt. Gov., and all the legislators for all their assistance. Above all, I thank God for giving me the opportunity to be of service to the community.

—**Donald G. Flores**, *Saipan Mayor*



Wyatt

I'm thankful that my family is doing well back in the States. I'm also thankful for good diving climate here on Saipan. And I feel thankful for having good zoning staff who have all been very supportive.

—**Douglas Wyatt**, *Zoning Administrator*

I am thankful for Physics. The sun ball keeps circulating routinely around the Milky Way galaxy, and



Bateman

we earthlings keep up our appointed rounds around the Sun. All in all it's a pretty keen system and I especially like the carbon cycle and the oxygen. I can both breath the air and even dive under the water with a bit of help from Mr. Cousteau. I say keep it. Oh, and I should mention my wife Olive and my son Alexander. They're pretty keen too.

—**Bruce Bateman**, *MVA marketing director*

I'm thankful for the gift of two healthy daughters and a wonderful spouse. I'm also thankful for my resilient mother and my siblings. I'm thankful for every tourist and every investor that still considers the CNMI their destination of choice.



Demapan

I'm thankful for all the leaders who continue to endure the challenges of our ailing economy in an effort to make life better for all.

—**Angel Demapan**, *Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's press secretary*



Palacios

I'm thankful for just waking up every morning. I'm also thankful for all my co-workers. Also a big thanks to all the people I work with—my clients and our listeners at Power 99 who continue to listen to us. I also would like to thank my Mom for bringing me into this world.

—**Tina Palacios**, *Sorensen Media Group Saipan manager*



Cabrera

I'm thankful for my family. They are the reason for me being here. I would like to thank them for all their support and love.

—**Norlyn Cabrera**, *Sorensen Media Group Saipan administrative assistant*



Baquilles

I'm thankful for me still being on Saipan and working at a good company. Thankful also for my good health.

—**Jun Baquilles**, *PC Outlet Saipan technical manager*



Berger

[I'm thankful for] my health and my wonderful wife, Mamiko. Everything else is frosting on the cake.

—**Joshua Berger**, *lawyer*



Feger

I'm thankful for my family, I'm thankful I'm an American, for my freedom, I'm very thankful for all the young men and women in our military

# Happy Thanksgiving from our family to yours.

**"Give thanks to the LORD,  
for He is good; His love endures forever."**

- 1 Chronicles 16:34

Customers First



# WHAT

From Page 2

who have been brave enough to put themselves in a war zone and killing field for our safety and protection. May God protect them.

—**James Feger**, *Saipan Rocball creator*

Thanksgiving means remembering the most important things in life: family and friends. To those in the military serving our country, we are thinking of you and we're keeping you in our prayers.

—**Janet H. King**, *lawyer, former Board of Regents chairperson*

From the entire Department of Public Health staff and management, we are wishing all of you a joyous and peaceful thanksgiving day!

—**Joseph Kevin Villagomez**, *secretary, Department of Public Health*

Today as we gather with friends and family, I have only thoughts of the many blessings the Lord has bestowed on all of us here in the CNMI.

We have food to share, laughter to share, love to share, and an abundance of hope for our Commonwealth... God bless the CNMI!

—**Teresa Kim**, *legal counsel for the Lt. Governor*

I am most thankful to God for the gift of life, my parents, my wife, my kids and the rest of my family. I had a good year and am grateful for all positive things that happened to me. I would also like to thank the Basketball Association for the NMI, the Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League, the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Basketball program, the Marianas Variety 2010 Women's Basketball League and all of the support staff and sponsors who make them possible. I'd like to thank all of the teams and players that participate in the leagues and thank the media channels for all of the great exposure they provide for local sports in the CNMI.

—**Abner Venus**, *BANMI board member*

I'm thankful for my wonderful husband, Russ, my family &



Quinn

friends, my health and God. Happy Thanksgiving.

—**Kanae Quinn**, *Pacific Islands Club employee*

Despite our challenges in the CNMI, I am thankful to have my mom, kids, siblings, family and friends. I'm thankful for my passion to give back to the community, the Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI and other basketball organizations. Thank you MBFNMI members for coming together to promote health and fitness and thank you to all of the sponsors for all of the support. Everyday that God grants me is special and Happy Thanksgiving to all the people in the world!

—**Ray Lizama**, *MBFNMI director*

I am thankful everyday for my immediate and extended families, my friends, my awesome sponsors and my Trench Tech Purebred team...and most especially my granddaughter Alden Jayh!

—**Cuki Alvarez**, *Trench Tech Purebred president*

I am thankful for all of the opportunities and graces that God has given me and for the strength to serve the community.

—**Rey Perez**, *QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup League director*

I'd like to give thanks to God and

my family as well as all of the RBC families, my coaches, players and the MTM Falcons for their gracious hospitality during our trip to Guam. I'd also like to send out a special thanks to my belated grandmother, Terry Diaz, for being my everlasting inspiration.

—**Joe Diaz**, *head coach of Rollers Basketball Club*

I am thankful to our Heavenly Father for continuing to provide guidance to all of us especially during this time of financial hardship. Thankful for my wife and family for giving me all the courage, support, and love. Overall, thankful for everyday of our life that we live. We never know what tomorrow brings. So it's prudent that we take a minute and appreciate of who we are and how we live today. We know it could be worse than it is. Happy Thanksgiving to all and God bless.

—**Jordon Kosam**, *CPA airport police chief*

I would like to give thanks to my parents for all their support and to the Lord for blessing me with two wonderful kids and a wonderful man. I love

you guys.

—**Sabrina Dela Cruz**, *Superior Court staff*

I am very thankful to my wife Gu-rin and my son Gomer. They are my inspiration to work hard. I am very



Barrogo

thankful to attorney Eric Smith who has been a very good employer

for almost 11 years now. Thank you to the Lord and to the Gloria Dei Choir for providing me guidance in my life."

—**Elmer Barrogo**, *courier services*

See WHAT on Next Page

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# Senate donates care packages to Operation CNMI Home Front Support

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

Members of the Senate showed their support to Operation CNMI Home Front Support by donating non-perishable goods that will be shipped off to local armed service personnel in various destinations abroad.

Senators led by Senate President Paul Manglona turned over boxes of donated goods—cans of tuna, corned beef, noodles, Spam, and homemade cookies—to program founder Geri Willis in a simple ceremony yesterday morning.

Manglona lauded the dedication of Willis to the three-year-old program

that he said has gained an outpouring of support from all sectors of the community.

“We’re very appreciative to all volunteers for making this possible. At least during this special season, we take the time out and remember our brothers who are serving our country,” said Manglona.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao expressed her sincere wish for the safety of all soldiers and looks forward to their safe return.

Each senator also prayed for the soldiers’ safety.

“We’re sending them also our prayers. I thank Ms. Willis for this program...it’s an opportunity and great honor for us to participate and let them

know that we think of them,” said Sen. Ralph Torres.

Sen. Pete Reyes said the Senate will always support any program and activity that will boost the morale of servicemembers from the island.

According to Willis, all donated goods will be packed on Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in preparation for shipping. She expects the goods to be delivered to soldiers around Christmas time.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that there are an estimated 900 military service members from the CNMI. However, because of difficulty in getting their names and locations, Operation CNMI Home Front Support was only able to

locate over 200 members.

Besides goods, soldiers will also receive newspapers and other materials donated by other sponsors from

the community and private sector. Cards and letters from students were also among the special items in the packages.

## HOUSE

From Page 1

sinos to help entice them to visit and gamble in the CNMI.

“We will not approve that. I hope I will have the majority votes,” said Tenorio in a phone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The former governor said it seems hypocritical for the Senate, especially for members of the body from Rota and Tinian, to find ways to entice tourists to go to their casinos when in fact they continue to deny Saipan its own casinos.

“They have casinos on Tinian and Rota and they don’t want us to have casinos on Saipan. They’re trying to make it convenient for their casinos by removing that CNMI jackpot tax. I’ll say no way. We will not approve that,” he said.

Tenorio added that removing the 30-percent local gaming tax comes at a bad time when the CNMI is in economic crisis.

“We need to generate revenues for our retirement fund and now they want to reduce the jackpot tax? No, we

will reject that at the House,” he said, adding that a decision on the Senate-amended legislation, HB 17-73, SS1, will come as early as next Wednesday, when the House goes back to session.

According to the Senate substitute bill, tourists are exempted from paying the 30-percent local jackpot tax if they meet five conditions.

The exempted tourists, however, will still be required to pay 7 percent of such jackpot, plus the 30-percent U.S. Internal Revenue Service income tax.

Currently tourists with jackpot winnings are subjected to a total of 60 percent tax—30 percent to the U.S. IRS for income tax, and 30 percent to the CNMI government for the jackpot tax.

For his part, House Floor Leader George Camacho (Ind.-Saipan) said the Senate’s amendments may become problematic especially if presented to the governor.

“I’m concerned that if you have riders...it changes the dynamic of the bill. It’s no longer about computers and laptops anymore but for casinos,” he said.

The freshman lawmaker also has an issue why the Senate amendment excluded Saipan from the scope of the jackpot tax exemption.

“Why is it only Tinian and Rota? Why can’t we make it across the CNMI and include Saipan also? I reviewed it and I brought it up with a couple of members...But I’m inclined to include an amendment and include gaming on Saipan and let’s find a number that is amenable for everyone instead of 7 percent let’s make it 10 percent,” he said.

He added decreasing the jackpot tax levied to tourists is not a guarantee that they will come to the CNMI in droves.

“Tourists will come here for gaming and entertainment no matter what the taxes are in the jackpot. They want to come here and play. It might help but it’s not a guarantee you will get more tourists if you have less tax on them,” he said.

HB 17-73 passed the House on a 14-4 vote last Nov. 17. The \$5,000 threshold for tax exemption on computers and laptops was set years back when office computer equipment still cost a couple of thousands of dollars.

In justifying the original bill, Camacho said the CNMI is currently losing out on taxes from these items because laptops and computers now cost less than \$1,000.

their convictions.

Villagomez and the Santosos, through their respective lawyers, assert that the record now shows that no members of the public were admitted at any time during jury selection, even though seats became available as prospective jurors were excused.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O’Malley argued that the record, as developed at the evidentiary hearing, shows that members of the public were admitted to the courtroom during jury selection.

O’Malley said if they were not, their exclusion was only because the courtroom was filled beyond capacity with prospective jurors, who had priority for available seats.

In his written order, Bennett said he finds that Munson had no policy to exclude the public from the jury selection during this or any other trial.

Bennett said although Munson was aware that the panel of prospective jurors in this case was very large, and that the majority of the seating was taken by the prospective jurors, at least the first day, he did not know if the prospective jurors occupied all of the seats in the courtroom, and he “assumed that there were other people, the public, in the courtroom.”

“Thus, I find that Chief Judge Munson did not know at the beginning of jury selection, and did not know at any

other time during jury selection, whether or not any members of the public were present,” Bennett said.

The visiting judge said he further finds that at no time during jury selection did the U.S. Marshal’s Office or the Court Security Office ever advise Munson that there was no room for members of the public in the courtroom.

Bennett said although Munson assumed that members of the public were in the courtroom for the first day of jury selection, the record shows that assumption was mistaken.

“However, in fairness to Chief Judge Munson, he was about to pick a jury in a very complicated, lengthy, and high profile case, and his attention was quite reasonably focused on other matters,” he said.

Bennett said Munson received no assistance from the Marshal’s Office, the Court Security Office, the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the prosecutor involved, or defense counsel in recognizing that there was, at the very least, a potential problem with public access to the courtroom during jury selection.

Villagomez and the Santos couple are now serving their sentences in federal prison. They appealed to reverse many of the court’s orders. The case came to be called the Rydlyme scandal, the biggest one yet in CNMI history.

## BERMUDES

From Page 1

This was Raena S. Bermudes’ first time to be chosen as GTC’s teacher of the year so winning the Public School System-wide overall title was a big surprise.

“I was very surprised! I really didn’t think I was going to get it because I was just happy to be chosen among the Top 5 candidates...so winning this overall title is very unexpected!” said the 27-year-old educator, a classroom teacher for four years now.

Bermudes is the second teacher from GTC to win the award. She follows the footsteps of erstwhile winner Charlotte Camacho who bagged the same honor in 2006. Camacho is now the GTC principal.

Bermudes’ selection was announced on campus around 1pm yesterday as the school was holding its field and education day activities.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, along with Board of Education members Lucy Blanco-Maratita, Marylou Ada, and Herman Guerrero delivered the good news to the Binadu family. Also in attendance were the PSS leadership team and Rep. Gregorio Kilili Sablan.

“We were in the middle of our school field day so that was very unexpected. We saw the vans arriving on our campus and ... in front of our students and staff, they made the announcement,” said Bermudes.

For the outstanding educator, being a teacher is not about the recognition but dedication and commitment to help students.

“I really feel honored...but really it’s not about the recognition. I’m just happy that I am being recognized and I want to use that to be able to speak out for our new teachers because a lot of times our voices are not being heard,” she said.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that Bermudes completed high school in 2001 at Marianas High School. She obtained her degree in elementary education at the Northern Marianas College in 2007.

As the CNMI’s Teacher of the Year for 2010, Bermudes will represent the islands in the national contest against other state awardees in the U.S. mainland. She will also have the chance to personally meet President Obama, who will host a dinner for all TOYs in April 2011.

Additionally, Bermudes has been invited to take part in space camp and to the national science symposium next year.

“Of course I am excited about those trips...but the major thing that excites me the most is the learning I could gain from meeting with other teacher of the year nominees from various states. For me, learning is never ending and I am looking forward to new things that I can implement in my classroom and share with my students and colleagues,” she said.

Bermudes was thankful to her colleagues and her principal for believing in her. “I believe that we’re very competitive when it comes to assessment

results and really coming together as a system is important. I don’t believe that because I am at GTC, I am only responsible for my students here...but to all children of the CNMI,” she said.

For GTC principal Charlotte Camacho, Bermudes winning the award didn’t come as a surprise at all.

“I am very excited, but I wasn’t surprised because I know that she made it to the Top 5 and I really had an inkling that we really do have a chance because Ms. Bermudes displays all the qualities of an exemplary teacher: she is committed, dedicated, goes beyond her duties, and she’s doing it for the right reason,” said Camacho.

The school’s PTSA treated the GTC nominees and staff to dinner at Laolao Golf Resort Bay last night.

## Teacher aide, instructor of the year awardees

The Board of Education and PSS also named Herman Villagomez of William S. Reyes Elementary School as the overall teacher aide of the year, while Sgt. Maj. Herman Atalig, the JROTC instructor at Rota High School, was named the overall instructor of the year.

The overall winners in the other award categories will be announced during PSS’ celebration next year.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that counselor of the year award will be announced in February as the PSS celebrates counselor month, while administrative support staffers, including maintenance awardees, will be known in April during the administrative staff of the week celebration.

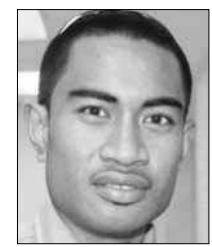
For the administrator of the year category, including vice principal and principal honors, awarding will be known in October during the principals’ month celebration.

There are about 85 nominees vying for the overall titles in various categories. PSS this year did not hold a special banquet for the education awardees due to funding concerns.

Saipan schools celebrated Education Day yesterday at their respective campuses.

## WHAT

From Page 3



Lisua

I would like to thank my family for their help and support throughout the years.”

— **Benusto Lisua**, Judiciary deputy marshal



Villagomez

To my eldest son in Camp Pendleton, San Diego, Richard, Raymond and my wife Maria, family and friends, may your hearts and home be full of blessing on this

Thanksgiving Day.

Happy Thanksgiving!

—**Luis S. Villagomez**, Superior Court deputy clerk

# Saipan airport's body scanner catches lawmaker's ire

By **MARK RABAGO**  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) is irate over the intrusive nature of the full body scanners installed Monday at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Transportation and Security Administration.

"I'm shocked...I don't have any problems with [traditional] scanners...or emptying your pockets or putting things [through x-ray machines]... but

to do a body scanner that would show every part of your body is an invasion of privacy and I think this is not right," he said in an interview Tuesday.

Reyes said the full body scanners represent an invasion of privacy and he intends to soon introduce a resolution objecting to its use at CNMI airports.

"This is tantamount to having a free porno show at the airport because it would show the entire body...I intend to introduce a resolution objecting to the use of body scanners. Where that would go I

don't know," he said.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos thinks there is no malicious intent, however, in what TSA is doing.

"It's just for the safety of the traveling public. The current debate on this matter is healthy and beneficial and in the end, people will realize and hopefully TSA will balance the concerns of the traveling public versus the need to ensure the safety of the traveling public," he said.

Inos has more issues with the "over-the-top" pat-downs.

"I kind of feel for the folks who have to go through the pat-down process especially those people who have prosthesis and things like that. It's bad enough that they have to go through this kind of situa-

tion and be subjected to further intrusion. I hope the agency, TSA, will find a more acceptable method of doing what they have to do to ensure the safety [of the traveling public]," he said.

Inos said everyone in the Commonwealth should take comfort that these new procedures are being done for everyone's own safety and he hopes that the CNMI government, the public, and TSA will soon have a consensus.

"The option of going through the imaging thing is a good thing for now. It's good they have that option but we will see because the jury is [still] out on this thing. There might be intelligence that TSA is privy to that we're not and

maybe that's the reason why they are doing intensive security screening. They are charged for our security as well so we need to acknowledge that," said Inos.

Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), on the other hand, said he understands people's reservations in going through the full body scanner.

"The public concern is the feature of the machine practically provides a naked outline of the passenger's physical body. It's troubling for a lot of people. It's a little bit too intrusive to stand in front of something and somebody else is looking at your body even though you know the person looking at the image doesn't know who he is looking at.

The fact is somebody's looking at your body," he said.

Another problem, Sablan said, is that the alternative is no better, with the pat-down procedures deemed to be even more intrusive than the scanners.

"I hope they come up with an alternative and at the same time achieve the same level of protection for passengers against any future terrorist action," said Sablan.

The clamor against the new full body scanners and more intrusive pat-downs come as reports that a "Dear Colleague" letter is circulating in the halls of the U.S. Congress detailing how Americans all over the country are complaining about TSA's new stringent measures.

## Fitial set to return today from his California trip

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is expected to return today from his 10-day trip to California where he attended the Region 9 Federal Regional Council.

"Barring any change in schedule, Gov. Fitial is due back in the Commonwealth [today]. He has been out of the CNMI since Nov. 14 to attend the historic meeting of the Region 9 Federal Regional Council," said his press secretary, Angel A. Demapan.

Fitial, along with Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, represented the Micronesian Chief Executive Summit, where the former serves as chair. The two were joined by leaders of U.S.-affiliated territories and Freely Associated States in the meeting.

The highlight of the Federal Regional Council meeting was the signing of a joint resolution pledging resources and committing to climate change, health care reform and workforce development, among other issues.

The joint resolution brings together efforts to strengthen

the relationship between federal agencies and Micronesian leaders.

These include collaboration in the areas of grants management and transparency of information, climate change/renewable energy, sustainable communities, workforce development and training, improving health and education, and improving communication and infrastructure.

Joining Fitial on this trip was first lady Josie Fitial, special assistant for administration Esther Fleming and Tom Linden, chairman of the CNMI Military Integration Management Committee.

The Micronesian Chief Executive was co-founded by Guam's Camacho and former CNMI governor Juan Babauta in 2004. It was created to develop closer ties, enhance existing ties, expand future discussions and agree on beneficial initiatives for the benefit of the Western Micronesian region. (Mark Rabago)

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DFS Saipan Limited president Marian Aldan-Pierce, fourth from left, hands a check worth \$7,321 to Karidat executive director Angie Guerrero yesterday at the DFS office in Garapan. From left, Ben Babauta, assistant general manager of operations; Lisa Ada of Guma Esperansa; Vorasuda Luna, assistant general manager for Saipan and Palau; Aldan-Pierce; Guerrero; Wolf Mojica, group sales manager for boutiques and fashion; Josephine Rabauliman and Judy Pangelinan of Guma Esperansa.

## DFS donates \$7.3K to Guma Esperansa

As part of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, DFS Saipan Limited donated \$7,321 to Guma Esperansa in a brief ceremony yesterday at its Garapan office.

DFS Saipan Limited president Marian Aldan-Pierce led the presentation of the check to Karidat executive director Angie Guerrero and other Guma Esperansa staff.

Also present from DFS management were Vorasuda Luna, assistant general manager for Saipan and Palau; Ben Babauta, assistant general manager of operations; and Wolf Mojica, group sales manager for boutiques and fashion.

Aldan-Pierce said DFS has been supportive of different organizations that serve the community. "We wanted to provide assistance to a charity that helps children on island so we decided to help Guma Esperansa," she said.

Aldan-Pierce, who used to serve as a board member for Karidat, said Guma Esperansa provides shelter to domes-

tic violence victims and their children.

"It's an organization we've been supporting since day one," said Aldan-Pierce, adding that they also sponsor the shelter's drinking water for many years now.

Guerrero said Guma Esperansa is able to provide a place of safety and other needs of victims of crime through federal grants as well as the kindness and generosity of individuals and organizations like DFS.

"We really appreciate the donation. We really need money for Guma Esperansa, especially for our needs that cannot be funded using our federal grants," she said.

Guerrero disclosed that the donation will be used to buy food as well as to pay for the rent for transition housing of their clients.

"Our prayers are always being answered. There are many good people in the community who are always willing to help," she said. *(Clarissa David)*

## Community raises \$10K for '09 shooter's victims

Community efforts to assist victims of last year's shooting incident on Saipan have raised \$10,000, according to organizers of the Victims Assistance Fund.

The largest portion of the fund—\$6,000—was raised by nearly 150 local participants and sponsors of a charity golf tournament held in June by the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands. The rest of the funding came from business donations.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, which partnered with HANMI on the

fundraising effort, donations are being distributed this week to victims based on the severity of injuries.

"We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to this effort to aid the victims," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "We are pleased to be able to extend our compassion, as a community, in this small way."

Five residents died and eight other residents and tourists were injured by a single gunman in this quiet island community in November 2009. *(HANMI)*

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
 State Board of Education  
**Public School System**  
 P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

### Head Start Policy Council Special Meeting Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a special meeting on November 26, 2010 (Friday) from 1:30pm-2:30pm, CK Head Start Resource, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan.

- I. Preliminary Matters**
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Quorum
  4. Adoption of Agenda
- II. Public Comments**
- III. New Business**
  1. Action Item:
    - a. Approval of Recommendation for Hire
- IV. Executive Session**
- V. Adjournment**

Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. Public Comments are limited to 15 minutes; therefore comments are limited to 3 minutes each.

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Q. Celis at 664-3761.

/s/  
 Anthony Barcinas  
 Chairperson

## Man, 44, pleads guilty to sexual abuse of 2 minors

A man arrested in March for allegedly sexually abusing two female minors in Tanapag pleaded guilty yesterday to two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Juan Camacho Taitano, 44,

submitted the guilty plea as part of a plea agreement. He will be sentenced on Feb. 1, 2011, at 9:30am.

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos remanded Taitano to the custody of the

Department of Corrections and directed the Office of Adult Probation to prepare a pre-sentence investigation report.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Taitano with two counts of sexual

abuse of a minor in the first degree and two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Taitano and counsel, chief

public defender Adam Hardwicke, entered a plea agreement with assistant attorney general Eli Golob. The remaining charges were dropped.

The plea agreement stated that on March 6, 2010, Taitano, who was then 43, touched

the private parts of a 10- and 13-year-old girls.

Police said Taitano sexually abused the two girls who were then sleeping in their house. The girls' mother was not at home at the time. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

## Probable cause found to charge 3 in Shirley's burglary

The Superior Court found probable cause yesterday to warrant the filing of charges against three men who were arrested last week for burglarizing the Shirley's Restaurant in Susupe.

During the preliminary hearing, associate judge Perry B. Inos directed suspects Roland R. Kaipat, Shabbo C. Sablan, and Theodore O. Pehnos to respond to charges of burglary, criminal mischief, and conspiracy to commit burglary.

Arraignment is on Nov. 29, 2010.

At yesterday's hearing, assistant attorney general Eli Golob called to the witness stand detective John Cabrera, one of the officers who first arrived at the scene.

Cabrera narrated how they were able to arrest the suspects after a chase.

Detective Steven A. Castro stated in his report that the Department of Public Safety received a call on Nov. 15, 2010, at 2:07am from an anonymous caller who reported a burglary in progress at the Shirley's Restaurant in Susupe.

Castro said officers Cabrera

and Jeff Bahillo responded to the scene and spotted the suspects.

Other officers later arrived and all three suspects were subsequently arrested.

Police saw copper wires that were already skinned and ready for transport in the generator

## DFS staff who stole \$16K from vault gets 90-day house arrest

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos yesterday handed down a 90-day house arrest sentence on a former employee of the Duty Free Shoppers who stole about \$16,000 from a DFS vault.

Inos sentenced Melanie Borja Camacho to two years in prison, all suspended except for 90 days, with credit for the time she had already served in prison, and then placed her on house arrest.

After completing her sentence, the 42-year-old Camacho will be placed on two years of probation.

She was also directed to pay \$16,000 in restitution to DFS, \$100 court assessment fee, plus a probation fee and 300 hours of community service.

room of the building.

The damage to the electrical system at Shirley's Restaurant was estimated at \$10,435.20.

Detective Castro said the suspects have been arrested several times in the past for various criminal cases. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Police arrested Camacho in February on theft charges, to which she pleaded guilty as part of a plea agreement.

Detective Buddy Igitol stated in his report that Camacho provided the DFS general manager with a statement confessing to stealing money from the vault.

Igitol said an investigation showed that on Jan. 31, 2010, employees counted the vault's backup change, which supposedly amounted to \$16,710 cash. The employees discovered that the funds were short of \$16,000 and only \$750 had been left behind.

Igitol said the general manager found out it was Camacho who was responsible for the missing money. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

## CUC: Oil manager quit to work with oil firm

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Abe Utu Malae confirmed yesterday that Will Sword, the agency's technical manager for oil, has quit to take up a post in the private sector.

Malae said that Sword will be moving to a management position with Pacific Energy, a regional oil supplier and petroleum terminal operator.

"Mr. Sword has accepted the position of area manager [for Pacific Energy]," he said.

Malae said that Sword's posi-

tion will be vacated next month.

"At the end of December the stipulated order position of technical manager for oil will become available at CUC," he said, adding that the firm will miss the former employee who, in a short period of time, made significant contributions to the utilities firm.

"In the short time he has been on board at CUC, he and his team were able to accomplish a good portion of the deliverables required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency," Malae said.

Malae disclosed that Sword's contract was for two years but he chose to quit after

just eight months.

"There is no consultancy [contract] for Mr. Sword to continue beyond Dec. 31. We will have to find a replacement for him that satisfies CUC and EPA," said Malae.

As CUC's technical manager for oil, Sword was tasked with overseeing the agency's compliance with a court order that requires it to address oil management problems that have been accumulating for at least two decades.

CUC said that getting the most qualified individuals in key positions remains extremely difficult for CUC because of the CNMI's competitive disadvantages.

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## Bravo Company volunteers at Saipan Zoo



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Members of the Saipan Southern High School JROTC Bravo Company pose with Command Sgt. Maj. Joaquin Kiyoshi after their service learning program at the Saipan Zoo in As Mahetog on Tuesday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Members of the Saipan Southern High School JROTC Bravo Company spent their time at the Saipan Zoo in As Mahetog on Tuesday as part of their service learning program.

Student media coordinator Zhyanne Camacho said a total of 26 students from the unit took part in cleaning up the zoo's animal cages and garden under the supervision of Command Sgt. Maj. Joaquin Kiyoshi and employees of Saipan Zoo.

Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* that JROTC classes always select Saipan Zoo as one of the venues for their service learning

requirement.

"We wanted to help out the community and we decided to give our time to the zoo because they don't have many volunteers," said project coordinator Ilia Rose Corella.

According to Kiyoshi, only 15 cadets are required to participate in the service learning but he wanted all of them to experience community service.

"It is very important that they get to learn new skills. Through this activity, students learn about the importance of the environment and animals. This will enable them to become more productive in the classroom," he said.

Kiyoshi commended the stu-

dents who were all in charge for the planning and preparation for event. "They worked together as a group. They chose their own facilitators and coordinators. They've done a great job," he added.

After the activity, the students were asked to think over the day's activities by filling out a reflection form.

"It's a good feeling knowing that you were able to give help to the community," said Camacho.

Besides Bravo Company, other companies also performed their service learning in selected areas.

Kiyoshi said the Alpha Company did their service learning

program at Hopwood Junior High School. The Charlie and Delta Companies will do their program at the Aging Center while Headquarters will serve the Dandan Elementary School.

Saipan Zoo manager Isabel Bulong said the JROTC members have always been volunteering their time at their facility. "We really appreciate their time and effort because we could always extra hands in maintaining the zoo."

Bulong said they welcome other students through their student volunteer program which has been in place since the zoo started.

For more information, contact Saipan Zoo at 322-5711.

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 25, 1999

### Apparel retail group uses SGMA as a model

The National Retail Federation, an organization representing more than 1.4 million US retail establishments, is using the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association as an international model for socially responsible factories. On its internet website, NRF recently added a section which mentions SGMA prominently in the section regarding suppliers and labor standards. The website, which can be found at [www.sweatshops-retail.org](http://www.sweatshops-retail.org), describes the high standards of NRF and what retailers are doing to ensure that they don't buy from sweatshops. The site links to SGMA's own website at [www.sgma-saipan.org](http://www.sgma-saipan.org) its Code of Conduct page on the site, and states, "...the SGMA experience, shows how suppliers can work with retailers, non-governmental organizations and the government to improve labor standards compliance.

### Community urged to support local arts and culture

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio made a strong pitch for local arts and culture yesterday during the government's annual awards presentation honoring artists, student and individuals in the CNMI. "I want to assure you all that this administration will continue to support the arts and humanities," he said in his speech at the 15th Annual Governor's Arts and 3rd Annual Humanities Awards. Close to 100 honorees, their families and government officials attended the two-hour awarding ceremony held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Nov. 25, 2002

### Japanese organization offers help vs pollution

Environmentalists wanting to preserve the quality of Saipan's beaches and the marine quality of the Saipan Lagoon have found an ally in a group of Japanese businesses on-island, which claimed to have been meeting to address problems such as beach pollution. Coastal Resources Management Office deputy administrator Kerry P. Pate disclosed this, saying that the Japanese group has even asked the CRMO to enlighten its members on the major causes of beach water pollution. The Japanese Society of the Northern Mariana Islands' (JSNMI) Business Executive Committee is composed of representatives from major Japanese companies like Japan Airlines, hotels, tour agents, golf courses and scuba diving shops, according to its president, Joji Kowaguchi.

### NMC eyeing 3 options for Lab School

The Northern Marianas College has at least three different plans for its Laboratory School, including a seven-year phase out program. NMC Academic Programs dean Chas Algaier said that the NMC leadership is entertaining the idea of abolishing the whole Lab School program in seven years beginning school year 2004-2005. "We've looked at the plan to phase out the Lab School in about seven years-a gradual phase out," Algaier said in an interview Saturday. This is based on the projection that, within that period, the NMC would by then have saturated the Public School System with new teachers. The NMC School of Education hopes to graduate some 30 teachers every year.

Nov. 25, 2003

### Power struggle costs taxpayers thousands

The lawsuit involving two Senate factions, which was recently dismissed by the Superior Court, is already starting to look like it could cost CNMI taxpayers thousands of dollars. The defense team alone, led by former Attorney General Robert Torres, had billed the bloc of Sen. Pete Reyes some \$11,924. Of this amount, Torres' co-counsel, retired Superior Court presiding judge Edward Manibusan, assessed Reyes' group some \$816. Torres submitted a copy of his billing to the court Friday, based on the request of Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo, who sat on the case.

### Harbor had no bumps in 1997, says EFC

There were no bumps found in the multi-million Saipan Harbor after the completion of an improvement project in 1997 and the U.S. Army Corps certified this, EFC Engineers and Architects Corp. disclosed Saturday. At the same time, EFC official Paul Baron said that, although EFC handled the project on behalf of the Commonwealth Ports Authority during the implementation of the \$50-million project, Samsung was the contractor, which in turn hired Songsong Lands and Survey Company to do the hydrographic survey work on the channel and the turning basin. He said tests were conducted and the channel was confirmed to be minus 40 at the completion of the project.

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# Bautista gets 6-yr. sentence for sex abuse of minor

On Friday, Nov. 19, 2010, 44-year-old Noel Bautista pleaded guilty to sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree. He was sentenced to six years in prison.

Bautista was arrested on May 26, 2010, when police officer Jesus Wabol spotted suspicious behavior inside a parked car.

As Wabol approached the vehicle, he noticed a naked man, later identified as Bautista, jump from the passenger seat to the driver seat. Wabol then discovered a little girl crying in the passenger seat. Bautista was arrested at the scene.

“Wabol’s excellent investiga-

tive skills led him to catch a sexual predator in the act and prevented further attack on the child,” said the Office of the Governor in a statement issued yesterday.

Bautista will now serve 22 months in prison with no possibility of parole, for a total sentence of six years imprisonment,

among other conditions. He must register as a sex offender.


Bautista was supposed to take the child to the store but detoured to lower fishing base where he perpetrated the attack.

Shelli Neal, who prosecuted the case, said “We applaud Officer Wabol for his efforts in detect-


ing and preventing crime. Officer Wabol’s work in this case was remarkable and a great example of the efforts made to keep citizens, especially children, of this community safe. The Office of the Attorney General is pleased to have swiftly brought the defendant to justice within 6 months of the

crime and hopes that the victim and her family can successfully put this incident behind them.”

“The Office of the Attorney General treats incidents of sexual abuse seriously,” chief prosecutor Michael Ernest said. “Sexual abuse of children is a serious crime. The Office of the Attorney General is committed to doing all that we can to protect children in the Commonwealth.” *(PR)*



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**Office of the Secretary of Public Works**  
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai  
Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
DPW11-RFP-001

ENGINEERING DESIGN OF BEACH ROAD/TUN SEGUNDO TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM, Project No.: CM-NH-0033(021)  
Saipan, CNMI

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting proposals for the Engineering Design of Beach Road/Tun Segundo Traffic Signal System on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement will be made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures will be in full compliance with **\$70.30.3-305** of the regulations. However, the project is funded under Federal grant, Article 7 Local Business Preference is not applicable.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from the Executive Director, at (670) 234-5897/5898 or fax (670) 234-6040.

The Scope of work will be available on or after **November 18, 2010** at the DPW, Technical Services Division located at 1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A Pre-Proposal conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works conference Room 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on **December 7, 2010**. Question regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing addressed to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division by calling telephone numbers 670-234-9828/9838 or fax to 670-234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **December 17, 2010**.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers must also submit a separate of qualifications (resumes and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty-five (25) pages. Note that a firm which submits a proposal as a prime consultant **cannot** submit as a subcontractor or another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff – 20%
2. Experience of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 20%
3. Project Approach – 25%
4. Schedule of Completion – 35%

Sealed proposals must be marked “**DPW11-RFP-001**”. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, December 21, 2010 to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, located at Lower Base, Saipan. Proposers from outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a “Notice of Intent to submit Proposal”. Notices of intent must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, December 21, 2010, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurementn@vzpacifica.net](mailto:procurementn@vzpacifica.net). Proposers from outside the CNMI must submit one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service of the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than December 21, 2010 AND must be received no later than December 31, 2010. Failure to submit the required number of copies may result in rejection of a proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (30 firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified Architect-Engineer firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government, factors such as the prices proposed by other firms responding to the solicitation shall be considered. If a fair and reasonable price can not be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon. The Successful proposer will be subject to responsibility determination in compliance with Section 70-30.3-245 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

The project is federally funded and the award of the contract is contingent upon the approval of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

All responses to this RFP must take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ Martin C. Sablan  
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ Herman S. Sablan  
Director, Procurement & Supply

The greatest thing in this world is not so much of what we have but how well we appreciate them.

A Bountiful Thanksgiving to one and all!

From the management and staff of

*Hafa Adai!*  
**Saipan Tribune**  
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



**Notice of Zoning Board Meeting**  
The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, December 02, 2010 at 6:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan

**A. Preliminary Matters**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
5. Communications
6. Public Comments

**B. Reports**

1. Chairperson
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Administrator
5. Committees
6. Legal Counsel

**C. Public Hearing**

1. A request for a Conditional Use Permit to allow the construction of institutionalized housing and the expansion of an existing warehouse. This property is described as Lot 011 D 25 in the Village of Garapan. This is at the intersection of Mooty Street with Natdo and Chichirica Avenues. The site is zoned as “Mixed Commercial”. Requested by Manuel J. Alvarez for Rigel Corporation.
2. A request for a Conditional Use Permit to construct a carnival ground on Lot 013 D 42. This site is located at the intersection of Beach Road and Fishing Base Street across from Kristo Rai Church in the Village of Garapan. This site is zoned as “Public Resource”. Requested by Mustafa Shakir.

**D. Old Business.**

1. Update on Zoning Office Operations (Permit Processing, Enforcement, Junk Car Program).
2. Update on Zoning Law/ Text Amendments (comments)

**E. New Business.**

1. Election of Zoning Board officers

**F. Executive (Closed) Session**

**G. Miscellaneous:** Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Douglas Wyatt, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Chairperson, Zoning Board

**NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for OLIMP USA**

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this Conditional Use application. Mr. Mustafa Shakir is requesting to construct a carnival ground on Lot 013 D 42. This site would be located at the intersection of Beach Road and Fishing Base Street across from Kristo Rai Church in the Village of Garapan. This site is zoned as “Public Resource”.

**Date:** December 02, 2010 (Thursday)

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Place:** Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, December 01, 2010. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to [staff@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:staff@zoning.gov.mp), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Douglas Wyatt, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Board Chair

**NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for Rigel Corporation**

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this Conditional Use application. Mr. Manuel J. Alvarez is requesting to construct institutionalized housing and expand an existing warehouse. This property is described as Lot 011 D 25 in the Village of Garapan. This is at the intersection of Mooty Street with Natdo and Chichirica Avenues. The site is zoned as “Mixed Commercial”.

**Date:** December 02, 2010 (Thursday)

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Place:** Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, December 01, 2010. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to [staff@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:staff@zoning.gov.mp), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

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/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Board Chair

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## Give thanks for your meal? Maybe just cross your fingers

By FRANCESCA GRIFO  
UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS

More than any other holiday, Thanksgiving is about food. We spend hours slicing, chopping and cooking. Then we eat a lot, eat some more, and, finally, fall asleep on the couch. What better way to celebrate being an American?

But what we eat this Thursday, or any other day, may not be as safe as we think. Our food system has serious problems. Last summer a half-billion Salmonella-tainted eggs were recalled. Last year, Salmonella in peanut products killed nine Americans and sickened more than 700. And every year, food-borne illness afflicts 76 million Americans, leads to 300,000 hospitalizations, and kills 5,000, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Why is this happening? We depend too much on food producers to catch problems, and that's too often too little, too late. Most manufacturers work hard to ensure their products are safe. But with increasing globalization, a few large companies often produce food for millions, and one unscrupulous or incompetent manufacturer can put public health at risk from coast to coast.

To solve this problem, we must strengthen the agencies that oversee our food. Right now, the Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture—the thin blue line between our kitchens and a host of food-borne diseases—cannot adequately protect us. These agencies are underfunded and understaffed, lack the authority to hold food companies accountable for the safety of their products, and can't keep pace with our increasingly complex food production and distribution system.

Every day, some of the food you eat has likely been processed at an uninspected plant. On average, the FDA, which is responsible for the safety of fruits, vegetables, eggs and seafood, inspects domestic food production facilities only once every 10 years. Food products generally pass through five or more facilities, which greatly increases the chances that your food was processed at a plant that hasn't been inspected since Bill Clinton was president. And it's even worse for food from overseas. The FDA inspects only about 1 percent of imported food products.

During an outbreak of food-borne illness, it is essential to track a product's path. But a government study found that the FDA couldn't trace nearly 90 percent of the products it reviewed back to the source. Federal food laws make the FDA's job even more difficult, by allowing producers and distributors to withhold information about a product's origin from health officials, even during an outbreak. In addition, the FDA has no explicit authority to order companies to recall tainted foods.

These examples illustrate a critical fact: The food industry has too much influence over safety regulations. Earlier this year, the Union of Concerned Scientists surveyed more than 1,700 FDA and USDA food safety workers. Hundreds of the respondents said they had experienced political interference in their work, and that public health was compromised because their agencies buckled under to pressure from food and agricultural businesses. Many survey respondents questioned the safety of our food supply. Fewer than half said they are confi-

See GIVE THANKS on Next Page



## NKorea's newly revealed nuke facility should surprise no one

“Stunning” was how Siegfried Hecker, former head of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, described North Korea's new uranium-enrichment facility. While more sophisticated and extensive than previously believed, this plant is entirely consistent with 15 years of sustained effort by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to perfect its nuclear weapons program.

Indeed, media reports about a new enrichment plant surfaced as early as February 2009. Moreover, just a week before Hecker's announcement, North Korea confirmed it was building a larger nuclear reactor at Yongbyon. Pyongyang's prior effort (in Syria) to replace its existing but aged reactor was frustrated when Israel bombed it in September 2007.

Seoul's minister of defense is so concerned, he has suggested deploying U.S. tactical nuclear weapons in South Korea for the first time in two decades. The size and scope of the North's just-revealed facilities will not, however, surprise anyone except those still entranced by the myth that North Korea will voluntarily negotiate away its nuclear weapons.

Though our intelligence is imperfect, Pyongyang almost certainly embarked on illicit uranium enrichment even before the ink dried on the Clinton administration's prized 1994 Agreed Framework. That deal was one of several North Korean pledges to denuclearize, in exchange for tangible benefits from the outside world — every one of which Pyongyang has violated.

The North may once again be testing America's strategic patience. We must avoid repeating our recent errors. After U.S. intelligence agencies unanimously concluded in mid-2002 that Pyongyang was preparing an industrial-scale enrichment program, the Bush administration decided to confront the North. At a key meeting in October 2002, the North defiantly admitted it was engaged in enrichment. Unfortunately, the U.S. response was to launch the hapless negotiations known as the six-party talks, providing cover for the North's continued progress on nuclear weapons.

Worse, in President George W. Bush's second term, an assertive group of deniers in the State Department and the intelligence community claimed or implied that North Korea did not have a substantial or ongoing uranium-enrichment program. They denied that the North Koreans had conceded as much in 2002 and that there was sufficient evidence of a continuing program. The intelligence community downgraded its confidence level in its earlier conclusion, not because of contradictory information but because it had not subsequently acquired significant new data. State Department negotiators scorned the idea that the North had a serious enrichment capability.

All of this was done to support a passion for negotiation, hoping

By JOHN R. BOLTON  
Los Angeles Times

John R. Bolton, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and the author of *Surrender Is Not an Option: Defending America at the United Nations*. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



Pyongyang would yet again pledge to denuclearize. But denying and minimizing the threat of enrichment for most of the last decade was well wide of reality. When the North announced after its second nuclear detonation in May 2009 that it was “beginning” an enrichment program, Pyongyang was simply bringing into the open activity almost certainly begun 15 years before. The North had once again successfully played Washington for a fool.

We must avoid these grievous errors going forward, not only regarding North Korea but also Iran, whose involvement with Pyongyang on ballistic missiles and probably nuclear weapons is long-standing. There is substantial reason for concern that Tehran's capabilities and its penchant for cooperating with the North exceed U.S. intelligence estimates. Moreover, the spinning of North Korea-related intelligence in recent years bears an uneasy similarity to the famously distorted 2007 National Intelligence Estimate on Iran's nuclear weapons program. Such politicization of intelligence provides a clear basis for high-priority investigations by the incoming Congress.

Moreover, North Korea's newly evident capabilities should give the Senate pause before it succumbs to President Obama's pressure to ratify the New START arms control treaty this year. New START is myopic in focusing only on parity with Russia, because Washington has far broader global responsibilities for friends and allies under our nuclear umbrella that Moscow does. Equally dangerous are China's growing strategic nuclear capabilities. Add to that list the inevitable Middle East proliferation if Iran gets nuclear weapons and outliers like Venezuela and Myanmar potentially embarking on nuclear weapons programs. This is hardly the time to limit the U.S. nuclear arsenal, let alone in a binding treaty like New START.

The last thing Washington should do now is resurrect the failed six-party talks or start bilateral negotiations with the North. Instead, serious efforts need to be made with China on reunifying the Korean peninsula, a goal made ever more urgent by the clear transition of power now underway in Pyongyang as Kim Jong Il faces the actuarial tables. North Korea's threat will only end when it does, and that day cannot come soon enough.

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Your blessing basket

*"Most human beings have an almost infinite capacity for taking things for granted."—Adlous Huxley*

**T**he Gospel of Luke shares an insightful story about 10 lepers who besieged Jesus Christ to heal them as he entered a village. Leprosy is a loathsome disease that causes disfiguring skin sores and nerve damage, and infected individuals were required to agonize together in leper colonies. After healing them, only one of the 10 returned to express profound thanks, and Christ asked: "Were there not 10 cleansed? But where are the nine?" (Luke 17: 17)

On this day of thanksgiving I want to share some thoughts on not only the important principle of gratitude, but also how ingratitude may be one of the root causes of some of our problems. The nine lepers who did not express gratitude for being healed were also infected with an attitude of ingratitude. They enjoyed the blessings of being healed, but lacked the capacity to express thanks to the healer.

We can find many visible examples in our community of people who are also infected with ingratitude as you observe graffiti painted on public buildings, rising crime rates, and social injustices inflicted on those considered "lesser" in society. Such acts of ingratitude are self-centered and exhibit an unhealthy pride that allows these individuals to treat things and people with contempt.

A ubiquitous example of ingratitude can be seen at our littered beaches and public areas. This eyesore demonstrates to our visitors a lack of appreciation for the beauty of the islands by the people who live here. Unless there was a beach cleanup a few days before,

you can go to practically any public area after a weekend of partying and find trash strewn around by those who have a lack of gratitude for the remarkable beauty they take for granted.

Gordon Hinckley stated, "Our society is afflicted by a spirit of thoughtless arrogance unbecoming those who have been so magnificently blessed. How grateful we should be for the bounties we enjoy. Absence of gratitude is the mark of the narrow, uneducated mind. It bespeaks a lack of knowledge and the ignorance of self-sufficiency. It expresses itself in ugly egotism and frequently in wanton mischief."

A cure for the disease of ingratitude is to express thanks for the many blessings we enjoy. Even in the difficult times we are experiencing, there are many ways to express gratitude. In fact, the more we express our appreciation and thanks for our blessings, the more we are aware of how much we are blessed.

Bonnie Parkin shares with us that gratitude opens our mind to a universe permeated with richness, and we can become spiritually aware of the wonder of the smallest things. This grateful awareness heightens our sensitivity to divine direction, and inspires happiness. Basically, if you want to be happier, become more grateful.

We should even be thankful for the challenges we face in life because each challenge can make us stronger and help us learn a valuable lesson. One family was going through a difficult time and they decided to express gratitude for each other and the many blessing they shared. A close friend pointed out that the family's "blessing basket" was overflowing.

From that conversation developed a game where each person would talk about how their day had gone and then share all of the

**By RIK VILLEGAS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Rik is a writer, marketing consultant and business instructor at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.*



many blessings that had been added to their "blessing basket." The more gratitude that was expressed, the more grateful they became. Like the one leper that returned to give thanks, this family felt the love of the Lord in a significant way as more opportunities for growth became apparent.

Think about all the things you have to be thankful for in your life. By expressing your gratitude, it makes you consciously aware of, and focus on, all the good things that are happening in your life on a daily basis. Changing the way you look at things changes the things you look at. The miracle of expressing gratitude is that it can heal relationships, build stronger families, and set up a pattern for personal happiness. Share your gratitude with others and you'll find that your "blessing basket" will overflow with bounteous blessings. Happy Thanksgiving.

*"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."—John F. Kennedy*

## Letters to the Editor

# Solvable problems

I followed with critical evaluations the issues brought about by the lawsuit of Police Sgt. James Guererro and the MAI's desk audit report findings and recommendations. I understand full well these matters as I dealt with these type of anomalies in public personnel administration practices and policies for many years as a trained, experienced and educated professional practitioner in the field of public human resources management. I have deep concern for these types of issues because they translate the frustration of the taxpayers who are not represented in the dealings by and between technical bureaucrats in government offices and organizational setting that hone their productive efforts, more so on procedural matters than addressing the core merits of the situations that challenges the policies and practices drawn from bad and antiquated personnel rules and regulations which implements personnel laws that are so outdated they no longer serve to satisfy the present needs of the CNMI government in pursuing a fair, balance, equitable, and keeping-up with the present state of science and technology of public human resources management. What the lawsuit and the MAI desk audits

present and disclose to the taxpayers is an indictment against the CSC and the OPM in their roles as gatekeepers of the merit system and pro-active functioning human resource management advisers and consultants to department heads and agencies that they serve in the CNMI government.

I agree with attorney Robert T. Torres that when a position is being "reallocated," that triggers a revelation that a problem exists in the use of that position by the appointing authority. The "re-allocation" of a position signifies that the appointing authority is poorly managing the position. This triggers the review of the recruitment and staffing plans of the appointing authority to determine how the position in question was carried out in performing the assigned duties and responsibilities, and ascertaining whether in fact such position was actually needed and justified by factual evidence as approved by budget, organizational needs, and actual job analysis of the position. In a nutshell, when the appointing authority follows a sound strategic position management practices, the recruitment of a position should allow the appointing authority the use of such position as stable as it is possible to the actual position at the time of recruitment, hence, the "re-allocation" of the position should have been prevented since the recruitment procedures implemented would have ensured that the position should continue to keep the position's classification at status quo, unless management or the appointing authority makes changes to the job contents of the position that have subsequent and consequential impacts on the position's classification. When management action impacts on the position's classification, this is where OPM exerts its authority. If proper position management is being pursued, OPM should have reviewed and conducted a desk audit of the position to determine what conditions have materialized and impacted on the position's classification. If the desk

audit finds that management had a "planned management action" such as grooming the incumbent for the position, OPM should declare such "planned management action" as unlawful and invoke such sanctions of the personnel rules and regulations, thus, all such changes to the position should be removed and the position reverts to its usual and normal classification status. Sound position management if practiced stringently by OPM should result in proper and effective use of positions as they are intended at the time of recruitment. If this basic public personnel management practice is not part of OPM's objective, a lawsuit being pursued by Police SGT, Mr. James Deleon Guerrero, would continue to haunt the CNMI government. The irony to this is that it could have been prevented and it is sad that the CSC did not see the perpetuation of this case by stepping-in the process to keep in check the practices of OPM and the resultant disengaged management practices of appointing authorities such as the Department of Public Safety.

We, the taxpayers of the CNMI, urge attorney Robert T. Torres to continue with the cause of action claim in litigation to resolve this issue for the CNMI government. If the successful outcome of the lawsuit does not bring any changes to OPM to address this type of solvable problems, I wonder how long we need to bring this to the attention of the Legislature and the Office of the Governor. The courts need not be involved, unless it is absolutely necessary. That's why the CSC is in the picture as a quasi-judicial adjudicatory body to avoid swarming the courts for the adjudication of internal employment matters of the CNMI government. The adjudicatory processes are established by law and they should work. The question is, why not?

**Francisco R. Agulto**

*Chalan Kanoa, District 2, Saipan*

## GIVE THANKS

From Page 10

dent in the safety of fruits and vegetables. And only a third said they are confident in the safety of imported foods.

The Obama administration needs to do a better job insulating federal inspectors and scientists from this outside pressure. Early last year, President Obama pledged to release a scientific integrity directive that would strengthen protections for whistleblowers, ensure that all government scientists can speak openly about their work, and increase the transparency of government decisions that affect public health and safety. The president has yet to follow through on his promise.

Congress also can help. The Senate is now debating a food safety bill that would significantly overhaul the food safety system for the first time since 1938. It could grant the FDA broad authority to test for food-borne germs and strengthen its ability to trace outbreaks to the source. The proposed legislation also could give the agency power to recall contaminated foods, fine companies that knowingly sell them, and hold imported foods to the same standards as domestic products. The House passed the bill last year; the Senate is expected to vote on its version on Nov. 29.

These steps won't solve all of our food safety problems. But they will go a long way to ensure that next year, when we sit down to gorge on the last Thursday in November, we will have a safer food supply.

*Francesca Grifo is a senior scientist and director of the scientific integrity program at the Union of Concerned Scientists.*

# Consequences of legalizing medicinal pot

Legalizing marijuana for medicinal purposes sounds like a great idea but has anyone thought about how it would actually work here? (Would we become the Commonwealth of the Marijuana Islands?)

Where will the plots of land set aside to grow medicinal marijuana be located? There isn't any part of the islands—except perhaps the northern ones—that is remote enough, secluded enough, difficult enough to get to, to be safe from constant thievery. Electric fences would not be enough, barbed wire would not be enough, to keep anyone from stealing the plants allegedly being grown for medicinal purposes.

It would take armed guards, stationed around the perimeter 24/7, maybe even accompanied by pit bulldogs, to protect the investment of those who would grow marijuana for medicinal purposes. Which could get rather expensive, as well as labor intensive.

One could, perhaps, grow the marijuana in covered warehous-

es—out of sight of passersby. But still, it wouldn't be long before their location would become known, and again, armed guards would be required to keep the crops safe from thievery—from the casual smoker, individual addicts or criminal gangs. And who knows what the effect of artificial lighting—another cost!—would be on the marijuana itself.

Also of concern would be the facilities where the plant produce would be packaged for sale. Those too would need to be heavily guarded. As would the pharmacies that dispense the marijuana upon doctors' orders.

Almost seems like the biggest boost to the economy would be in the area of providing jobs to security guards.

Have the consequences of such a proposal really been thought through?






**Ruth Tighe**

*Tanapag, Saipan*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Rain	▲87 ▼78
Chuuk	Rain	▲83 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85 ▼73
Kosrae	Showers	▲85 ▼74
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼75

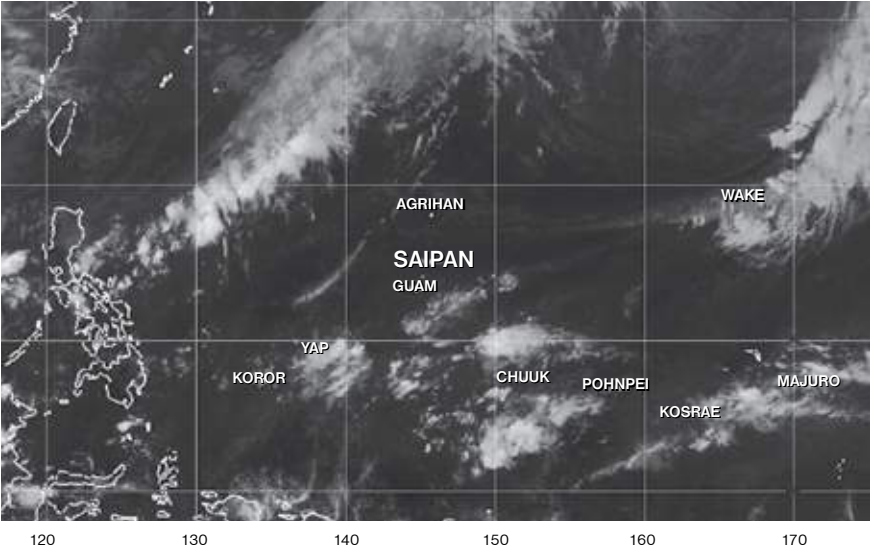
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲70 ▼61
Beijing	Sunny	▲47 ▼24
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲76 ▼54
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲82 ▼71
London	Snow	▲38 ▼28
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲64 ▼41
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼75
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲72 ▼57
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲82 ▼69
New York	Showers	▲46 ▼43
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲57 ▼44
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲39 ▼32
Pusan	Sunny	▲53 ▼39
Rome	Rain	▲56 ▼43
Salem	Cloudy	▲42 ▼40
San Francisco	Sunny	▲56 ▼42
Seoul	Sunny	▲44 ▼28
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲62 ▼48
Washington, DC	Showers	▲53 ▼49

### Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:45 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet	
11:04 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
4:26 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet	
8:54 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2010**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front cuts northeastward across the northwest corner of the discussion area from a circulation centered at 18N130E to beyond 25N at 142E. Clouds and showers exist along and up to 400 miles northwest of the front. A surface trough extends northeastward from 3N135E to 10N140E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring over Yap between 6N and 10N from 136E to 144E. Another surface trough reaches northward from 3N151E to 11N154E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found south of Chuuk within 100 miles of a line from 2N149E to 6N155E and just northwest of Chuuk between 8N and 11N from 149E to 152E. A nearly stationary front heads southwestward from 25N177E to a circulation centered at 23N169E. The boundary continues as a cold front across Wake Island to 18N160E then finally turns westward as a shear line to end at 19N146E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 80 miles of the front between 158E and 169E and also north of a line from 19N170E to 25N173E. A third surface trough extends east-northeastward from Kosrae to the Marshalls or from 4N163E to 9N172E. Scattered showers are occurring within 100 miles of a line from 5N165E to 8N172E to 9N180. This area lies between Kwajalein and Majuro and just east of Kosrae.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:59 PM	9:20 AM
Friday	9:58 PM	10:11 AM
Saturday	10:56 PM	10:59 AM
Sunday	11:53 PM	11:44 AM
Monday		12:27 PM

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS  
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN  
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2010											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM						GUAM-SAIPAN					
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily			C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6			C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6		
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7			C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7		
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7			C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7		
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7			C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7		
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily			C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily		
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily			C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily			DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily		
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	Daily			DL286	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily		
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily			DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5			OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	4, 7		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1			OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			OZ603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7		
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7			OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6			FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ704/605	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN						via ICN		
C09317/891	2:45am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM			DL172/286	7:55am	8:25pm	Daily via NRT		
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT			C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM		
C09313/933	7:55am	9:40pm	6 via GUM			OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN		
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau			OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM			C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau		
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau			C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau		
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			PR110/C0596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		
OZ606/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN			C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM		
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM			C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 5, 7 via GUM		
						C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM		
						C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM		
SAIPAN-HONG KONG						HONG KONG-SAIPAN					
OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00am	1 via ICN			OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN		
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN		
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM			OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
OZ606/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN			C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM		
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)											

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

# 10 NMI, Guam students to get \$19,550 scholarships

**MAITE, Guam**—First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business* announced yesterday that 10 students have been selected

to be the 2010 First Hawaiian Bank *Guam Business* Businesswoman of the Year scholarship recipients.

The program provides student scholarships at three higher education institutions in the Marianas region: The Univer-

sity of Guam, Guam Community College and the Northern Marianas College. The selection committee chose four students from UOG; three students from GCC; and three from NMC.

The scholarships will be presented to the successful Guam applicants on Friday, Nov. 26 at 10am at First Hawaiian Bank Maite Center's Meeting Room

on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. At the same time on Saipan, the scholarship awards will be presented to the NMC recipients at First Hawaiian Bank Gualo Rai Branch.

Funds for the scholarships were raised through the 2010 Businesswoman of the Year Gala, held at the Hyatt Regency Guam on April 24. The sold-out event was at-

tended by hundreds of supporters of the program. The event raises funds for these scholarships and recognizes women who make a difference in business. The 2010 Businesswoman of the Year Maga'haga award recipient is Anna Wang Kao, founder and president of Genghis Khan Furniture Co. **(PR)**

## 12 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged 12 beach sites on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected beaches are the Palms Resort, Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop,

DPW Channel Bridge, Fiesta drainage, Samoa Housing, Hafa Adai Hotel, Hafa Adai drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach Drainage, CK District 4 beach, and San Antonio Beach.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal

indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan on Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. **(DEQ)**

## Coast Guard, Guam Fire rescue 15-month-old child

**GUAM**—Coast Guard crewmembers from Station Apra Harbor coordinated a response with Guam Fire Department to save a 15-month-old child in the waters off Anae Island, about a mile southwest of Agat Marina, Tuesday.

The captain of the dive boat *Margarita* requested immediate medical assistance, via VHF, from the Coast Guard command center in Apra Harbor at 11:15am.

Small boats from Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor were conducting training exercises in the vicinity and responded to the captain's distress call.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Samuel Mendlowitz and Sea-

man Colt Fairchild, both Coast Guard Emergency Medical Technicians, were first on scene to evaluate the child.

"The child was stable, breathing and had a pulse when the EMTs arrived on scene," said Chief Petty Officer Nicholas Pavlick, Station Apra Harbor's officer-in-charge. "The EMTs kept the child's airway open, monitored her vitals and kept her stimulated throughout the transit to Agat Marina, where they were met by the GFD."

The child was taken to Guam Memorial Hospital where she was examined and released.

"Lifesaving is the reason why I joined the Coast Guard,"

said Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew Daviau, Station Apra Harbor's coxswain.

"Mendlowitz and Fairchild's professional, rapid-response saved this child's life; this case was a success because of my crew," said Daviau.

The Coast Guard reminds mariners of the importance of close supervision of children, and early notifications for missing persons in the ocean. For maritime emergencies, call the Coast Guard 24 hours a day at (671) 564-USCG or 911. The Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary work closely with local agencies to promote boater and water safety in every community. **(USCG)**

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Zoning officials on Marianas Agupa

This Saturday, Nov. 27, 2010, the Chamorro talk show program Marianas Agupa will feature Herminia Fusco, chairperson of the Zoning board, and Douglas Wyatt, Zoning administrator, who will discuss the business friendly policies of the Zoning Office and its community outreach campaign. The show is from 10am to 10:30am on Magic 100.3 FM.

The program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. It will feature reports by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, a special report from Rota by Thomas D. Mendiola Rota and a report from Tinian by former senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via [www.magic100radio.com](http://www.magic100radio.com) will be available. **(PR)**

### Beautify CNMI sets last meeting for 2010

Beautify CNMI! will be having its final meeting of the year on Dec. 2, 2010, at 5:30pm, at the NRCS office in Garapan (just south of the Naked Fish Restaurant on the ground floor of the three-story white building)

The agenda will include reconnecting Beautify CNMI and its partners with Marianas RC&D; status update on plans for incorporating Bridge Capital donation; and yearend wrap-up and make plans for 2011 kickoff meeting.

The highlight of this meeting is to present the opportunity to sign an MOU with Marianas RC&D that would create a partnership mutually beneficial to all Beautify CNMI! partners. **(PR)**

### CCAC board sets meeting

The board of directors of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture will have a special meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2010, at 1pm in the CCAC Gallery. **(PR)**

### MHS calling on all its alumni

MHS is calling all previous (alumni) students to

come and pick up their school records, which include their high school transcripts and other confidential files.

All graduates from 1965-2002 must pick up their student records before Jan. 7, 2011. All records not picked up will be disposed of accordingly.

After Jan. 7, 2011, MHS will only keep records for seven years. Beyond the seven years, MHS will only issue graduation certification for students. Call the registrar at 237-3205 for further information. **(PR)**

### CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Office will be closed this Friday, Nov. 26, 2010, due to the austerity Friday. The office will return to its normal hours the following week. For more information, contact CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Office at 664-7000/7001/7002. **(PR)**

### Navy to hold training on FDM

The U.S. Navy will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Nov. 30, 2010, from 9am to 5pm. The general public—especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and date indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. **(PR)**

## Amateur radio licensing exams on Dec. 1

The next VE session offered by W5YI-VE sponsored by MDX Amateur Radio Club will be on Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2010, from 6pm to 8pm.

It will be held at the training room of the American Red Cross NMI Chapter on Airport Road. For more information, contact Bong Malasarte (WH0X) at 287-5525 or email [mdx@mdx-radio.net](mailto:mdx@mdx-radio.net)

Walk-ins will be accepted, although pre-registration is encouraged. Those in the Technician Class who want to upgrade must bring the original and one photocopy of their FCC license and any applicable CSEs.

A valid ID will also be required. If you do not have a photo ID, bring two ID forms at least one of which shows your current mailing address. The

2010 exam fee is \$14 for all elements.

The exam session will be administered by an MDX Amateur Radio Club Volunteer Examiner under the W5YI Volunteer Coordinator.

VE's wanting to assist in the exams should bring their VE ID's. Only VE's with valid ID are allowed inside the examination session. **(PR)**



### MCS QUEEN FOR 2010

First Grade student Jamille Pangelinan was crowned the 2010 Queen of the Mount Carmel School Royal Court during the coronation ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2010. Pictured with her are her proud parents, David and Maria Corazon Pangelinan, MCS president Margaret C. Dela Cruz, and Louise S. Concepcion, director of Institutional Development. **(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)**



### BIRTHDAY BASH

Ralph Reyes of MV Reyes Catering celebrates his 75th birthday with his wife, Merced "Nan Che," and the Joeten family. **(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)**

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Patrick Lizama and Jouvane Etumai, who are both celebrating their special day today, Nov. 25, 2010! We wish you all the best! Many more birthdays to come and God bless! Greetings come from your Joeten Ace Hardware family. **(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)**



Happy birthday greetings to Tamie Joyce Ruak, who is celebrating her special day today, Nov. 25, 2010, and congratulations on the upcoming new addition to your family! **(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)**

# NMC's Start Smart Seminars



NMC Financial Aid Officer Daisy Manglona-Propst speaks to students about financial aid.



KHS & SSHS seniors participate in an icebreaker activity.



NMC Outreach Counselor Manny Castro tells students about the benefits of starting at NMC.



Former representative Tina Sablan shares her college experiences. Joining Sablan in the panel discussion is Sophia Dancoe and Michael Evangelista.



Marianas High School seniors look through the various college forms during the Northern Marianas College's Start Smart seminars on Nov. 19, 2010, at the Saipan World Resort.



MHS seniors try to 'unknot' themselves in a morning icebreaker activity.

Right, 2Lt. Bruce Camacho talks about the SROTC program.



Far right, Kagman and Saipan Southern high school seniors take time to fill out the NMC admission application during the Northern Marianas College's Start Smart seminars on Nov. 18, 2010, at the Saipan World Resort.



# Business

## FHB to offer bank specials for World Youth Day participants

**HAGÅTÑA, Guam**—First Hawaiian Bank will be offering banking specials to assist young adults aged 18 to 29 years old making the pilgrimage to the World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid, Spain, according to an announcement by Laura-Lynn Dacanay, senior vice president and CNMI region manager.

"For many of these young people, this is a trip of a lifetime for them and we want to make it easier for them to start saving now for the August 2011 trip," said Dacanay. "While in Spain they will also be able to save on fees too. For those who sign up by Dec. 31, 2010, we will

waive the international transaction fees on their First Hawaiian Bank debit Mastercard for the month of August 2011."

Young adults aged 18-29 are encouraged to sign up for a First Hawaiian Bank First Checking account by Dec. 31, 2010, to receive a sports backpack and all international transaction fees waived on their Priority Rewards debit Mastercard during the month of August 2011 while they are in Spain. For more information, visit any First Hawaiian Bank branch or contact Jose Garcia at (671) 475-7853.

Pope John Paul II started

World Youth Day, an annual youth celebration, to inspire young adults and to encourage them to live according to the teachings of Christ. The first official World Youth Day was held on December 1986 in Italy and has become a historical tradition ever since. For information, visit [www.madrid11.com/en](http://www.madrid11.com/en)

First Hawaiian Bank ([fhb.com](http://fhb.com)) with total assets of over \$14.8 billion has three branches on Guam and two branches on Saipan. For over 152 years, the bank has been offering its customers Service, Solutions and Security. **(FHB)**

## TSA workers face a tough job

**TAMPA, Fla. (AP)**—They've been called molesters, threatened with physical violence and ordered not to touch "my junk." One woman headbutted a TSA officer who was searching her laptop. Other screeners report being punched, kicked and shoved during patdowns. However, security officers performing increasingly invasive searches say they want Thanksgiving travelers to know they're just doing their jobs, and trying to save lives.

"Even though the agents face some considerable stress from passengers, they are determined to keep the traveling public safe," said Sari Koshetz, a TSA spokeswoman in Tampa on Tuesday.

To be sure, most passengers are docile when going through an airport's security checkpoint.

But Ricky D. McCoy, a lead transportation officer and president of Local 777 Illinois and Wisconsin, a union for the TSA workers, said the atmosphere has changed in the past two weeks.

Last week, for instance, McCoy explained the search to a passenger. "The guy looked me straight in the face and said, 'I don't know what I might do to you if you touch

me,'" McCoy said.

McCoy assured the man he would not be abused—and then stared the man down and told him touching him would be the worst mistake he's ever made because authorities would be called. The search went smoothly.

"About 10 minutes later his wife came back and apologized for what he said," McCoy said. The new pat-downs began about a month ago, and there was one assault on an officer early on. Since the story made headlines, McCoy said, there have been at least six incidents where officers were punched, pushed or shoved after officers explained what would be happening. In one case, he said a passenger headbutted an officer as he looked at her laptop.

He blamed TSA for the uproar, saying the agency didn't reach out to passengers enough.

"We have major problems because basically TSA never educated the public on what was going on," McCoy said. "Our agency pretty much just threw the new search techniques out there."

And then there's the downright uncomfortable: Valorie Lacey, a TSA officer and president of Local 333 in Philadelphia, recalled doing a pat-down on a woman's lower body.

"While I was bending over,

I saw two men gawking at us," she said. She wasn't sure if the woman noticed.

TSA officers have received eight to 12 hours of training on the pat-down procedure, Koshetz said. Training on the scanning machines is a three-day process that requires on-the-job training. She said the agents must pass tests each year and requalify for their jobs.

Despite the occasional outburst, many passengers are forgiving.

"I personally wouldn't want to be patted down," said 29-year-old Relana McGlothlin, an Army reservist from Orlando who had a layover Tuesday in Atlanta on her way to Raleigh, N.C. "But I think the security people are just doing their jobs. They have a service job, so they have to do what they're told to do."

Valyria Lewis, a transportation security officer and president of AFGE local 555, which covers Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama and South Carolina, hasn't heard of officers encountering problems with passengers in her region. Most of the passengers are cooperative, she said.

"We braced for that, but that's not what we've seen," Lewis said. "There's no resistance there. We're seeing a totally different thing than what we're seeing in the media."

# Nation

## Obama vows US to defend SKorea

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—President Barack Obama on Tuesday pledged the United States would stand "shoulder to shoulder" with South Korea after what the White House branded a provocative, outrageous attack by North Korea on its neighbor. Its options limited, the U.S. sought a diplomatic rather a military response to one of the most ominous clashes between the Koreas in decades.

"South Korea is our ally. It has been since the Korean war," Obama said in his first comments about the North Korean shelling of a South Korean island early Tuesday. "And we strongly affirm our commitment to defend South Korea as part of that alliance."

Working to head off any escalation, the U.S. did not reposition any of its 29,000 troops

in the South or make other military moves after North Korea fired salvos of shells into the island, setting off an artillery duel between the two sides.

The president, speaking to ABC News, would not speculate when asked about military options.

Obama called South Korean President Lee Myung-bak later Tuesday night, saying the U.S. would work with the international community to strongly condemn the attack that killed the two South Koreans and injured many more, the White House said.

The White House said the two presidents agreed to hold combined military exercises and enhanced training in the days ahead to continue the close security cooperation between the two countries.

Obama assured Lee that "the

United States stands shoulder to shoulder with our close friend and ally, the Republic of Korea," the White House statement said.

"President Obama said that North Korea must stop its provocative actions, which will only lead to further isolation, and fully abide by the terms of the armistice agreement and its obligations under international law," the statement said.

The U.S. has relatively few options when dealing with the Pyongyang government. Military action is particularly unappealing, since the unpredictable North possesses crude nuclear weapons as well as a huge standing army. North Korea exists largely outside the system of international financial and diplomatic institutions that the U.S. has used as leverage in dealing with other hostile countries, including Iran.

## Lost in frenzy over searches, travelers hit roads

**LAS VEGAS (AP)**—Michael Sommermeyer's Thanksgiving plan goes like this: Load his wife and children into their Ford Taurus, hand his teens an iPad stocked with movies and drive 15 hours—from Las Vegas to Texas.

Sommermeyer would not have it any other way.

Lost in the frenzy over new airport inspections is the fact that 94 percent of holiday travelers will reach their destination by road this year. For some, a snarled freeway and \$3-a-gallon gasoline is a welcome respite from the madness of air travel.

"The full body scan, I am worried about it because of the radiation," he said. "They claim it's safe, but who knows?"

Roughly 39.7 million will travel by road this year, a 12 percent increase from last Thanksgiving, according to a AAA travel survey of 50,000 U.S. households conducted during the week of Oct. 25.

With more people traveling for the holiday this year than last, the numbers who chose to fly also went up. Just over 1.62 million holiday travelers are flying the skies, a 3.5



A passenger walks to catch a train at Union Station in Washington, Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010, at the start of the Thanksgiving holiday travel rush.

percent increase from last year, AAA said.

AAA conducted its travel survey before many groups began organizing protests at airports against additional security procedures, including the body scan machines and a more rigorous, intrusive pat-down process.

When they do travel, families are not straying far from home. Those who travel by car will drive roughly 816 miles over the holiday weekend. Wednesday and Sunday are

generally the busiest days for air and road travelers.

AAA attributes part of the increase in travelers to people feeling more confident about the economy and, in some cases, taking Wednesday and Friday off to make the drive.

"The economy is being perceived as turning around," AAA spokesman Michael Geeser said. "They think things are better for themselves, so maybe they are taking an extra day off from work and making it a long weekend."

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Economy sees growth, but unemployment stays high

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The economy grew a little faster over the summer than the government first thought. That modest pickup wasn't nearly enough to significantly lower the nation's high unemployment rate, and the Federal Reserve doesn't expect the economy to improve much over the next couple of years. The economy expanded at a 2.5 percent annual rate in the July-September quarter, the Commerce Department reported Tuesday. That was up from the 2 percent pace initially estimated, and better than the 1.7 percent growth rate in the April-June quarter. Stronger spending by U.S. shoppers and better overseas sales of U.S. goods were the main forces behind an upward revision.

#### TSA: Some gov't officials to skip airport security

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Cabinet secretaries, top congressional leaders and an exclusive group of senior U.S. officials are exempt from toughened new airport screening procedures when they fly commercially with government-approved federal security details. Aviation security officials would not name those who can skip the controversial screening, but other officials said those VIPs range from top officials like Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and FBI Director Robert Mueller to congressional leaders like incoming House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, who avoided security before a recent flight from Washington's Reagan National Airport.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Jawbone found in Aruba doesn't belong to Holloway

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)**—A jawbone found on an Aruba beach does not belong to missing Alabama teenager Natalee Holloway, prosecutors in the Dutch Caribbean island said Tuesday. The jawbone is human, though it is unclear who it belongs to. Dutch investigators compared the lone tooth on the bone with dental records supplied by Holloway's family and "it can be ruled out that the bone fragment came from Natalee Holloway," the prosecutors said. The bone was found recently by a tourist on a beach, and Aruba prosecutors had asked forensic scientists in the Netherlands to analyze it.

#### Butterball, Hostess, others going easier on salt

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The makers of Butterball turkey, Twinkies and Wonder Bread have agreed to use less salt in some products as part of a national campaign against high blood pressure. New York City health officials announced Tuesday that six more big food companies, including Butterball and Hostess, had joined an effort to cut salt levels in packaged foods by 25 percent over the next five years. The city and other health departments and medical groups across the country are trying to persuade the nation's food manufacturers to voluntarily use less salt. To date, 22 have signed on to the initiative.

## Asia

## Tensions high after Koreas trade shelling

By HYUNG-JIN KIM and KWANG-TAE KIM  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**INCHEON, South Korea** (AP)—South Korea's troops were on high alert Wednesday as their government exchanged threats with rival North Korea following a frightening military skirmish that ratcheted tensions on the peninsula to new extremes.

President Barack Obama reaffirmed Washington's pledges to protect ally Seoul after the North shelled a South Korean island near their disputed border, killing at least two marines and wounding civilians in what U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called one of the "gravest incidents" since the end of the Korean War.

In a conversation with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, Obama said the United States stands "shoulder to shoulder" with Seoul. The White House said the presidents agreed to hold combined military exercises and enhanced training in the days ahead.

South Korea vowed massive retaliation should North Korea attack again, and said Wednesday it would strengthen military forces in the disputed western waters near the island of Yeonpyeong and halt aid to the communist North. The North warned of more military strikes if the South encroaches on the maritime border by "even 0.001 millimeter."

South Korea sent two ships carrying 2,000 boxes of relief supplies to the stricken island Wednesday, Coast guard official Kim Dong-jin said. He said that about 340 residents escaping the island were to arrive at the port city of Incheon aboard a Coast Guard ship around mid-afternoon.

Images released by the local government and obtained through YTN television showed people huddled in emergency shelters, children wrapped in blankets, rows of destroyed houses with collapsed walls, blown out windows and charred roofs. A man with a shovel walked through the rubble.

The skirmish began Tuesday when North Korea warned the South to halt military drills near their sea border, according to South Korean officials. When Seoul refused and began firing artillery into disputed waters—but away from the North Korean shore—the North retaliated by shelling Yeonpyeong, which houses South Korean military installations and a small civilian population.

Seoul responded by unleashing its own barrage from K-9 155mm self-propelled howitzers and scrambling fighter



Destroyed houses are seen on Yeonpyeong island, South Korea, Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2010.

AP

jets. Two South Korean marines were killed in the shelling that also injured 15 troops and three civilians. Officials in Seoul said there could be considerable North Korean casualties.

Shin Sung-hee, a fisherman, said he was mending his fishing net near a port on Yeonpyeong when he saw columns of black smoke and fire billowing from the hills.

"I couldn't think of anything. I just thought my wife would be in danger, so I rushed to my house," Shin said.

His wife, Lee Chun-ok, said

that when she fled her partly collapsed house, she saw black smoke engulfing the town and fires erupting from nearby hills; a woman was crying on a bridge. Her husband ran over and told her they had to escape, so they ran to a port and managed to get on a ferry with several hundred other people.

The U.S. government called the North's barrages an outrageous, unprovoked attack, but sought to avoid any escalation and did not reposition any of its 29,000 troops stationed in the South.

South Korean Defense Minister Kim Tae-young told lawmakers Wednesday that the military will send reinforcements to five islands near the disputed sea border, but provided no details. "South Korea maintains military readiness to deter North Korea's additional provocations," he said.

South Korea said Wednesday that, despite the artillery exchange the day before, it would continue another previously scheduled military drill set for a different part of the Yellow Sea, about 70 miles (110 kilometers) south of the disputed waters near Yeonpyeong.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff said the military drill by the South Korean army, navy, air force and marines would continue until Nov. 30 as previously scheduled.

Separately, South Korea said it was suspending promised aid shipments of cement and medicine worth 580 million won (\$506,000), Unification Ministry spokesman Chun Hae-sung said. The government also ordered eight civic groups to stop delivering aid worth 2.7 billion won (\$2.3 million) to North Korea.

The top U.S. military officer in South Korea, Gen. Walter Sharp, condemned North Korea's "unprovoked" artillery attack in a statement Wednesday and called on the North to abide by the armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

"These actions are threatening the peace and stability of the entire region," said Sharp, who commands U.S. forces in South Korea as well as the U.S.-led UN Command.

The UN Command has called on North Korea to engage with

it in high-level military talks to "de-escalate the situation," the statement said.

The confrontation lasted about an hour and left the uneasiest of calms, with each side threatening further bombardments. In Seoul, South Korea's capital of more than 10 million people, citizens went about their business Wednesday with shops, offices and financial markets open

attention on the tiny island and sent stock prices down worldwide.

The South Korean president, who convened an emergency security meeting shortly after the initial bombardment, said an "indiscriminate attack on civilians can never be tolerated."

"Enormous retaliation should be made to the extent that (North Korea) cannot make provocations again," Lee said.

North Korea does not recognize the western maritime border drawn unilaterally by the U.N. at the close of the conflict, and the Koreas have fought three bloody skirmishes there in recent years. But this clash follows months in which tensions have steadily risen to their worst levels since the late 1980s, when a confessed agent for North Korea bombed a South Korean jetliner, killing all 115 people aboard.

The government in Pyongyang has sought to consolidate power at home ahead of a leadership transition and hopes to gain leverage abroad before re-entering international talks aimed at ending its nuclear weapons programs.

In March, North Korea was blamed for launching a torpedo that sank the South Korean warship Cheonan while on routine patrol, killing 46 sailors. South Korea called it the worst military attack on the country since

### North-South tensions

Some major incidents between North and South Korea since 1950:

- 1950** Civil war erupts as North invades South; escalates into a Cold War proxy war as U.N. and U.S. support the South, Communist China and Soviet Union aid North
- 1953** Armistice ends fighting (no peace treaty has been signed); demilitarized zone (DMZ) established
- 1968** Twenty-eight North Koreans who plotted to assassinate South Korea's president are killed; North Korea seizes the spy ship USS Pueblo, holds crew captive for 11 months
- 1969** North Korean fighter jet shoots down a U.S. spyplane, killing all 31 aboard
- 1976** Soldiers from the North kill two U.S. military in DMZ
- 1983** Burmese court rules that North Korea was behind the bombing in Burma of 17 South Korean officials
- 1987** North Korean spy convicted of planting a bomb that brought down a Korean Air flight, killing 115
- 1996** North's spy ship runs aground in the South; more than 30 die in hunt for crew
- 1998** South Korea sinks a North Korean spy vessel
- 1999** Naval clashes on disputed maritime border kill at least 17 North Korean sailors
- 2002** South's frigate sunk during naval skirmish
- 2003** South returns fire after Northern troops shoot at a DMZ observation post
- 2006** South Korean soldiers drive back two Northern soldiers who crossed the border
- 2009** Naval fight south of the maritime border damages vessels from both sides
- 2010** March South Korean warship is sunk, killing 46 sailors; international inquiry finds North Korean torpedo remnants at site of sinking
- Nov. 23** North Korea fires at Yeonpyeong Island near the border, hitting a South Korean military base and setting houses on fire

© 2010 MCT  
Source: Reuters, BBC  
Graphic: Pat Carr

## Yeonpyeong island

North Korea fired dozens of artillery shells at a South Korean island near a disputed western sea border, killing two soldiers.

## Island problems

- Lies 2 mi. (3 km) from disputed Yellow Sea border and 8 mi. (12 km) from North Korean coast
- Houses military installations and a small civilian population
- Inter-Korean naval clashes in 1999 and 2002; in 2002 exchange of fire, 13 Northern sailors and five Southern sailors were killed

Source: ESRI, Reuters, BBC

## NORTH KOREA

★ Pyongyang

Northern limit line

Yeonpyeong Island

★ Seoul

SOUTH KOREA

Yellow Sea

50 mi.  
50 km.

Graphic: Melina Yingling

© 2010 MCT

as usual, but with the previous day's skirmish on their minds.

"We are concerned that a war might break out," said Oh Duk-man, who was walking in downtown Seoul.

In Young-joo, another pedestrian, called for a strong response. "Our government has to react very strongly against North Korea after they invaded us in such a daring way," she said.

North Korea's apparent progress in its nuclear weapons program and its preparations for handing power to a new generation have plunged relations on the heavily militarized peninsula to new lows in recent weeks.

The attacks focused global

the war. Pyongyang denied responsibility. South Korea did not retaliate for the sinking of the Cheonan.

Six weeks ago, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il anointed his youngest son, Kim Jong Un, heir apparent. This week, Pyongyang claimed it has a new uranium enrichment facility, raising concerns about its pursuit of atomic weapons.

Yeonpyeong lies a mere seven miles (11 kilometers) from—and within sight of—the North Korean mainland. Famous for its crabbing industry, it is home to about 1,700 civilians as well as South Korean troops. There are about 30 other small islands nearby.

# Focus

## Analysis: Attack is North Korean bid for attention

By JEAN H. LEE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama is keeping close watch on the Korean Peninsula after this morning's deadly artillery duel between North and South. AP White House Correspondent Mark Smith reports.

Buy AP Photo Reprints A frustrated North Korea is lashing out again, this time with a deadly volley of artillery aimed at reminding rival South Korea—and the world—that it will not be ignored.

The barrage of shots fired Tuesday at a South Korean island lying within sight of its shores did not come out of nowhere. For weeks, North Korea has been angling for credit for reaching out to the U.S. and South Korea, and has warned that the cool response would come at a cost.

The destruction that set homes ablaze, sent civilians fleeing for underground shelters and killed two South Korean marines may have been more than Pyongyang bargained for in its game of chicken with the South.

But it gets attention, which is what Pyongyang wants as it seeks to restart negotiations to barter its nuclear program for much-needed aid.

It can be hard to remember in bustling, cosmopolitan Seoul that the Korean peninsula remains in a state of war.

Sixty years after the fighting began, the U.S.-backed South has risen to become the world's 15th-largest economy, an example of industriousness and pluck. Two weeks ago, Seoul basked in the limelight of hosting more than 30 world leaders for the Group of 20 summit in what was seen as the country's diplomatic debut. Next week, South Korea will make its case for the right to hold the 2022 World Cup.

But a rising South Korea does not sit well with its poorer northern neighbor. Once the richer of the two Koreas, the North has suffered over the years from the loss of Soviet aid, economic mismanagement and natural disasters that destroyed its precious few resources.

And as the rest of the communist bloc has crumbled, North Korea has remained staunch in its "juche" policy of self-reliance, continuing to build up a nuclear program that has earned it pariah status with the West.

Its nuclear bombs and its unpredictability remain North Korea's most valuable assets, and Pyongyang has played its cards shrewdly over the decades. The last two years have been a particularly delicate time in Pyongyang, with leader Kim Jong Il reportedly suffering a stroke in 2008 and then paving the way to name his youngest son as his successor.

But Kim Jong Un, still in his 20s and known as the Young General, won't have the benefit of decades of preparation that his father had before taking over from his father, the late North Korea founder Kim Il Sung.

There are at least three things Kim will want to secure before he can comfortably hand over the reins: loyalty to the Young General, economic stability and political security ensuring the regime's grip on power.

Time may be running out. Health issues notwithstanding, Kim is likely to want to formally anoint his heir in 2012, the centennial of Kim Il Sung's birth, a significant milestone that would cement the family's ruling status in ritualistic North Korea.

Winning the military's loyalty will be key in a society that operates under a "military first" policy.

The armistice signed in 1953 was designed to

keep the peace, but North Korea has never accepted the maritime border drawn by the U.N. at the close of the Korean War, and the western waters have long been a flashpoint.

They've fought three deadly skirmishes there since 1999. The last one, a year ago, was particularly humiliating, with the North suffering one death and more wounded.

Revenge may have been behind the plot to take down South Korea's Cheonan warship, which investigators say was torn in two by a North Korean torpedo in March. If the young son wanted to earn the military's loyalty, it would have been a prize: 46 South Koreans died in the worst attack on Seoul's military since the Korean War.

Pyongyang denies involvement, as it has past provocations.

However, neither nation wants another war, and both have sought ways to repair relations without losing face.

Since taking office in February 2008, South Korea's President Lee Myung-bak has been sticking to a hard-line policy of demanding concrete action on denuclearization before offering the North any significant aid.

Yet in recent weeks, he has shown a limited willingness to yield, offering North Korea a shipment of rice and other humanitarian aid to help with devastating flooding and backing off demands that Pyongyang apologize for the Cheonan sinking.

North Korea, which is suffering under U.N. economic sanctions for its nuclear defiance, also has been reaching out, eager to get back to talks on winning aid in exchange for nuclear concessions.

Pyongyang has been putting out feelers in unprecedented fashion, allowing foreign journalists to cover a massive 65th anniversary parade for its ruling Workers' Party that served as an international debut for his son and heir.

Both sides also agreed to let families divided since the Korean War meet at a North

Korean resort for reunions that inevitably draw attention to the emotional toll the peninsula's division has taken. There are rumors that top-level aides were trying to negotiate a summit between their two leaders.

But Pyongyang has become frustrated by the slow pace of restoring relations with Seoul and eventually the U.S., a key step toward its goal of securing aid and stability. That impatience has bubbled over into petulance.

The regime wants respect. And though it increasingly has turned to neighboring China for political and financial support—a strategic alliance that has broader geopolitical consequences—its sense of being rebuffed by the U.S. and South Korea still stings.

The decision to show off a new uranium enrichment plant to a U.S. scientist recently was a clear ploy to pressure Washington and Seoul and remind the allies what's at risk in putting off disarmament talks.

Drawing South Korean troops into a skirmish on an island populated by civilians was a pointed escalation that emphasized that Pyongyang, or the Young General, is prepared to play tough.

Smoke billowed into the air and screams sounded as Yeonpyeong's islanders ran from burning homes with shells raining down upon them.

For those who lived through the Korean War, the scene recalled the death and destruction of that conflict. It was North Korea's way of reminding the world that the war is not over and that ignoring it comes with dire consequences.

*It is North Korea's way of reminding the world that the war is not over and that ignoring it comes with dire consequences.*

# World

## Vatican: Condom use less 'evil' than spreading HIV

VATICAN CITY (AP)—In a seismic shift on one of the most profound—and profoundly contentious—Roman Catholic teachings, the Vatican said Tuesday that condoms are the lesser of two evils when used to curb the spread of AIDS, even if their use prevents a pregnancy.

The position was an acknowledgment that the church's long-held anti-birth control stance against condoms doesn't justify putting lives at risk.

"This is a game-changer," declared the Rev. James Martin, a prominent Jesuit writer and editor.

The new stance was staked out as the Vatican explained Pope Benedict XVI's comments on condoms and HIV in a book that came out Tuesday based on his interview with a German journalist.

The Vatican still holds that condom use is immoral and that church doctrine forbidding artificial birth control remains unchanged. Still, the reassessment on condom use to help prevent disease carries profound significance, particularly in Africa where AIDS is rampant.

"By acknowledging that condoms help prevent the spread of HIV between people in sexual relationships, the pope has completely changed the Catholic discussion on condoms," said Martin, a liberal-leaning author of several books about spirituality and Catholic teaching.

The development came on a day when U.N. AIDS officials announced that the number of new HIV cases has fallen significantly—thanks to condom use—and a U.S.



AP  
In this picture made available by the Vatican newspaper Osservatore Romano Pope Benedict XVI, left, receives by German journalist Peter Seewald a copy of the book "Light of the World", during a private audience at the Vatican, Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010.

medical journal published a study showing that a daily pill could help prevent spread of the virus among gay men.

"This is a great day in the fight against AIDS ... a major milestone," said Mitchell Warren, head of the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition.

Theologians have debated for years whether it could be morally acceptable for HIV-infected people to use condoms to avoid infecting their partners. The Vatican years ago was reportedly preparing a document on the subject, but it never came out.

The groundbreaking shift, coming as it does from the deeply conservative pontiff, would appear likely to restrain any public criticism from Catholic conservatives, who insisted Tuesday that the pope was merely reaffirming the church's moral teaching.

Conservatives have feared that a comment like this would give support to Catholics who want to challenge the church's

ban on artificial contraception in an environment where they feel they are under siege from a secular, anti-Catholic culture.

George Weigel, a conservative Catholic writer, said the Vatican was by no means endorsing condom use as a method of contraception or a means of AIDS prevention.

"This is admittedly a difficult distinction to grasp," he told The Associated Press in an e-mail. What the pontiff is saying is "that someone determined to do something wrong may be showing a glimmer of moral common sense by not doing that wrong thing in the worst possible way—which is not an endorsement of anything."

Benedict's comments come at a time when bishops in the United States are intensely focused on upholding the strictest views of Catholic orthodoxy, emphasizing traditional marriage, natural family planning based on a woman's menstrual cycle and making abortion the most important issue.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### UK imposes new permanent immigration quota

LONDON (AP)—Britain will impose a tough annual limit on the number of non-Europeans allowed to work in the U.K. and slash visas for overseas students as it seeks to dramatically reduce immigration, the government said Tuesday. Home Secretary Theresa May told the House of Commons that the number of non-EU nationals permitted to work in the U.K. from April 2011 will be capped at about 22,000—a reduction of about one-fifth from 2009. But thousands of people who are allowed to work in Britain on intracompany transfers aren't included in those figures—or under the new quota. Critics said that means it's unclear how Prime Minister David Cameron's government will meet a pledge to cut net immigration, which also includes students and families of visa holders, to below 100,000 by 2015, from about 196,000 last year.

#### Mexican convicted in sex trafficking case in Ga.

ATLANTA (AP)—A Mexican man was convicted Tuesday on federal charges of orchestrating a sex trafficking scheme in which prosecutors say he lured impoverished young Mexican women to the Atlanta area with false promises of better lives, high-paying jobs and even hints of romance. Amador Cortes-Meza, 36, could face life in

prison after a jury in U.S. District Court convicted him of the 19 counts he was facing, including sex trafficking of minors, conspiracy and smuggling charges for bringing the women to metro Atlanta and then making them work as prostitutes. A sentencing date has not been set. Prosecutors said Cortes-Meza and several of his relatives targeted uneducated women and then paid smugglers to bring them across the border illegally.

#### UN nuke agency: Iran enrichment temporarily halted

VIENNA (AP)—Nuclear inspectors monitoring Iran found the country's enrichment program temporarily shut down a week ago, the International Atomic Energy Agency reported Tuesday, reflecting a possible setback for the cornerstone of the country's nuclear activities and source of national pride. Beyond noting that Iran continued to enrich in defiance of the U.N. Security Council, a report by the U.N. nuclear monitor also said that Tehran for the second year continued to rebuff attempts to investigate suspicions it had experimented with components of a nuclear program. A separate report on Syria noted similar stonewalling on the part of Damascus on IAEA attempts to follow up on suspicions that a target bombed by Israeli warplanes more than three years ago was a nearly finished reactor engineered to produce plutonium, and whether the country had hidden other nuclear activities.

# Environment

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

## Give the gift of savings

WASHINGTON, D.C.—With the help of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star program, finding the perfect gift that gives more is easy. Energy Star qualified products save energy and money, and with more than 60 product categories to choose from, it is a simple way to help your friends and family give back to the environment.

The energy used in the average house is responsible for twice the greenhouse gas emissions as the average car. By using products that have earned the Energy Star label, you can cut both your energy bill and your emissions by one-third — saving money and helping to fight climate change.

multifunction devices and more. An office fully equipped with Energy Star qualified products can save up to \$350 over the lifetime of the products. Energy Star qualified computers and monitors come with the power management enabled to ensure you are saving the most energy and money.

### Products that use Energy Star qualified battery chargers

Another great gift idea is any one of the variety of products that use Energy Star qualified battery chargers, such as video game

ergy Star label on LED decorative light strings to meet your holiday decorating needs. Qualified light strings use 75 percent less electricity than conventional incandescent light strings and are available in a variety of colors, shapes, and lengths. These Energy Star qualified light strings save energy and are more durable, shock-resistant and cooler to the touch.

### Recycle old electronics

Don't forget to tell those who are receiving your gifts to recycle their old electronics. Recycling electronics allows the valuable materials in electronics to be used again in new products, saving

### ON THE NET

More information on Energy Star products:  
<http://www.energystar.gov/products>  
More information on Energy Star qualified battery charging systems:  
<http://www.energystar.gov/batterychargers>  
More information on Energy Star labeled stores:  
<http://www.energystar.gov/labeledstores>  
More information on Plug-In To eCycling:  
<http://www.epa.gov/wastes/partnerships/plugin/index.htm>

### Home entertainment

Home entertainment is a popular gift choice for the holidays. You can find the Energy Star label on nearly all entertainment products from TVs and Blu-ray disc players to home-theater-in-a-box. Qualified TVs, for example, use about 40 percent less energy than standard TVs and are available in a wide range of sizes and technologies.

### Office products

Shoppers can also find the Energy Star label on office products like computers, monitors, notebooks,

controls, digital cameras, shavers, hand vacuums, power tools, and even cordless lawn mowers. Products that use Energy Star qualified chargers use 35 percent less energy compared to those with conventional chargers. As you replace your old battery chargers, look for opportunities to recycle them because they are commonly accepted in electronics recycling programs.

### OTHER HOLIDAY SAVING TIPS

#### Holiday decorating

Be sure to also look for the En-

ing natural resources. EPA's Plug-In To eCycling initiative has information on how to safely recycle electronics, including cell phones, computers, and TVs.

### Unplug electronics

With all of these holiday ideas, remember that unplugging electronics once they are charged as well as turning them off when they are not in use will optimize the energy savings. Plugging electronics into a power strip makes this easy — just flip the switch to power everything down at once. (EPA)

## First Friday Films to feature two of NMI's endangered species

Two of the CNMI's endangered species, the Hawksbill sea turtle and the Marianas fruit bat (*fanihi*), will be featured at the next "First Friday Films" at American Memorial Park.

The event starts at 6:30pm on Friday, Dec. 3, with the film *Home for Hawksbill* followed by our second screening: *Fanihi: A Cultural Digest*. Joining us to shed more light on the conservation efforts underway to protect these species will be Tammy Summers, Julia Boland and Joe Ruak from the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Before each film, they will talk briefly about conservation and protection of

the sea turtle and *fanihi* populations in the CNMI. There will be a question-and-answer session after both films. Viewers are encouraged to come early to enjoy displays in American Memorial Park's Visitors Center lobby as well as stay after the film to have their questions answered by our presenters.

*Fanihi*, a short film shot in the CNMI by Jim

Tharp, discusses the complex issue that is the conservation of this important animal. The film examines the ecological role the *fanihi* plays on our islands as well as its cultural significance.

*Home for Hawksbill*, a short film by Jordan Plotsky, tells the inspiring story of how three distinctly different cultural groups in the Solomon Islands came together to help protect the endangered Hawksbill sea turtle. The film details how these communities went from hunting the turtle to localized extinction to providing a safe haven for the animal that mutually benefits all the groups involved.

For planning purposes, the event will last about 90 minutes, including the time allotted for presentations. "First Friday Films" is free and open to the public. Find more information at [www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com](http://www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com). Subscribe to the blog for regular updates on upcoming events. (PR)

**First Friday Films**

**Two Films, One Night!**

**Home for Hawksbill**

A film by Jordan Plotsky



**Fanihi: A Cultural Digest**

A film by Jim Tharp



**Friday, Dec. 3 @ 6:30 p.m.**

American Memorial Park Visitor's Center

[www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com](http://www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com)

# Life & Style

DONG BEI TREK 8

## Cyrillic Thanksgiving in Amur mon ami

By JAIME VERGARA  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

There won't be any turkey heading on this side of the Amur River today, nor a basted bird for the dining table. Any Byzantine Christians coming from Blagoveshchensk across the river will be fasting (if they follow the Melkyte tradition), and secular Russya of the Far East may not even be that religious.

We are kind of partial to the Native American "turkeys" who were invited by the pilgrims for the first harvest feast, later were handed the Word, gained piety, herded in the Veil of Tears march to Oklahoma, and lost their land! Not a fair exchange, would you say? But



JAIME R. VERGARA

Encrusted snow remains on the intersection fronting Shuang Zi Chang Hotel where we are billeted. Notice the Chinese characters, the Cyrillic sign, and a rare English Bank of China roof billboard; (inset) male and female *man'amko* in public service, like many other couples visibly doing the same across the city, scrape packed snow off the roads.



T-day is a blessed Hallmark day, and we would not want to disappoint the egg hunters and Disney, would we?

Heihe was the first frontier posting of Manchu warriors in Manchuria prior to the ascension of the Qing dynasty into Zhongguo's imperial throne. My 70-year-old host mother in Shenyang grew up here and prior to our trip, she swore it was a one-street settlement with nothing much but peasants, loggers, fishers and weeping willows in the river in the summer. Winter time, the folks gather for games of chance indoors as this time of the year, the sun rises at seven and sets at four, and down raw *bai jou* liquor fermented from fruits and grain in buried jars. They play a dozen variations of *mah jong*, and with the advent of cards, they have as plentiful a variation of poker as a Louisiana gambler in the bayou.

The spanking new rail station that welcomed us attests to Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms. Blagoveshchensk and Heihe are bonded as a free trade zone where commercial and trade traffic between the two cities are unfettered. If Hangul and Putunghua were the sole signage in Yanbian, Jilin southeast of here, this area by the Amur favors Russya. We've so far learned to recognize the Cyrillic letters for market, pharmacy and restaur-

rant. Thank God for a semester in *Koine* Greek; we are not too lost in the Slavonic alphabet.

But the effect of American imperial mindset had affected us as well since we came to this zone, thinking that we would easily and effortlessly spend a day across the river on the Russian side, take a few pictures for our friends at PIC and Pavel at the front desk of the Marianas Resort, and gain a few bragging points with the brethren and sisterhood at NMPASI for having been to Russia. No dice. I did not do my homework. There are no Russian diplomatic offices on this side of the river, and Uncle Sam's or Noynoy's passports do not gain us a yard beyond the border. A day trip, I was advised, may cost four hours just hustling immigration officers, so a trip was not promoted. I suppose we now have more time to enjoy Russia-in-China in Heihe.

We tried going to Vladivostok from Hun Chun in Yanbian last February but we had limited time, nor we aware of the "visa" hustle, and Suifen-hue northwest of the Russian port city is also a crossing border town but that is another 24-hour train ride via Harbin, so at the moment we are considering a trip to Qiqihar (pronounced Chichihar, so *Pinoys* may refrain from giggling), or Allah be Merciful, Manzhouli

of *Neimongol* (Inner Mongolia) where we might learn to face Mecca five times a day. Rail cost is cheap; time-consuming, yes, but we are tourists, and if we did not have time, we should not be here!

Besides, we discovered Heihe's Zhong Yang Shang Ye Jie, a shopping promenade for both the Russian and Chinese *nouveau riche* as well as unwary foreigners, not unlike Wangfujing in Beijing, Nanjing Road in Shanghai, and Harbin's Moscow of the East Zhong Yang Shang Ye. Heihe also has a Russya street where all items are allegedly from across the Amur river.

On the sleeper train from Harbin, we were billeted with a couple of Jilin businessman who had very limited English but appreciated the fact that I kept notes on an Apple MacBook. It appears that Eve's bitten fruit is a status symbol of either the schooled (not necessarily knowledgeable), or the well-to-do, so we gained a few notches on the social status scale. Anyway, after I found out that I could not join the Blagoveshchensk day trip, I decided to explore Heihe's offerings, and I ran into them on Russya street.

On their query, I revealed that the chocolates all looked like they were produced by

See CYRILLIC on Next Page

## 3rd eye: NYU artist gets camera implanted in head

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A New York University arts professor might not have eyes on the back of his head, but he's coming pretty close. Wafaa Bilal, a visual artist widely recognized for his interactive and performance pieces, had a small digital camera implanted in the back of his head—all in the name of art.

Bilal said Tuesday that he underwent the procedure for an art project that was commissioned by a new museum in Doha, Qatar, in the Arab Gulf.

Titled "The 3rd I," it is one of 23 contemporary works commissioned for the opening of the Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art on Dec. 30. The exhibition is titled "Told/Untold/Retold."

"I am going about my daily life as I did before the procedure," the Iraqi-born artist said in a statement.

Bilal, who is teaching three courses this semester at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, will wear the camera for one year. It is 2 inches in diameter and less than an inch thick.

The project will raise "important social, aesthetic, political, technological and artistic questions," he said.

He declined to say when the camera was implanted or other details of the art installation, saying it "will be revealed to the public as part of the museum preview on Dec. 15" and on a website to be launched on the same day, <http://www.3rdi.me>.

He said he chose to have it put in the back of the head as an allegorical statement about the things we don't see and leave behind.

How it all fits together is still a bit of a mystery.

The camera will capture his everyday activities at one-minute intervals 24-hours a day and then be transmitted to monitors at the museum, said curators Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath of Art Reoriented, who commissioned Bilal on behalf of the museum.

"He doesn't have to alter his lifestyle or what he does. In principal, he's moving on with his life," Bardaouil told The Associated Press from Doha. "It will be a three-dimensional, real space-and-time experience. Once the piece is revealed, you'll realize that the camera is only one aspect of the work and there are aspects as important that will be experienced."



This Aug. 24, 2010 photo provided by New York University arts professor Wafaa Bilal, shows Bilal holding the prototype of a digital camera that he had implanted in the back of his head, in New York.

The project has raised challenging questions for NYU, the nation's largest private school with about 44,000 students.

"As a school of the arts, a school whose mission is to educate artists, we place a high value on his right to free expression in his creative work as an artist ...," NYU said in a statement.

"We also take seriously the privacy issues his project raises, its impact on our students, and the importance of preserving trust in the pedagogical relationship between a faculty member and students."

NYU said it has had numerous "constructive and productive" conversations with the artist and was continuing "to discuss with him the right mechanism to ensure that his camera will not take pictures in NYU buildings."

But a number of students said they were not overly concerned about their privacy being violated.

"I don't really know what you would be protecting them (students) from, what would be happening in the classroom that couldn't be shared," said Erin Wahed, 22, who graduated in May with a BFA in photography but did not take any of Bilal's classes.

Seth Mrocska, who was friends with some of Bilal's students but did not have him as a professor before graduating in May, agreed,

saying "It's not that there's much to hide in the classroom."

However, he said he wasn't OK with the images being transmitted to another country and "shared across a media platform to be stored for all to view."

Bilal said "The 3rd I" builds on his other body of work that combines performance art, digital and body art and photography "into a unique conceptual piece."

Many of his previous works have invited debate and controversy.

In a 2007 online installation, "Domestic Tension" in 2007, virtual users could shoot a paintball gun at Bilal 24 hours a day. The Chicago Tribune deemed it "one of the sharpest works of political art to be seen in a long time" and named him Artist of the Year that year.

A 2008 video game piece, "Virtual Jihadi," was censored by the city of Troy, N.Y. where it was shown. In it, Bilal inserted an avatar of himself as a suicide bomber hunting then-President George W. Bush. The New York Civil Liberties Union filed a claim against the city of Troy for closing the arts center showing the work.

The artist has said the work was meant to shed light on groups that traffic in hateful stereotypes of Arab culture with video games like Quest for Saddam.

everything in Russya street. Sure enough, when I picked up a can of Kenya Koffee, the ingredients may have come from the slopes of Kilimanjaro, but the manufacturing was definitely Zhongguo. Contemporary marketing based on fakery has reached this frontier town of Manchuria.

Thanksgiving Day in Heibe is non-existent but then, thanksgiving on Saipan that I am missing is just as much an exercise of inauthenticity as the chocolate bunnies and colored eggs liberally scattered in many commercial places, hardly representing

the real spirit of thanksgiving of the soul.

We may be cynical about the economic ethos of our time, but we are sure grateful to be alive, from any nook and cranny of this planet. *Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.* (Melodie Beattie). *L'achaim!*

### MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

We the children and family of

*Lourdes Palacios Dela Cruz*

Better known as  
"Lourdes Domingo"

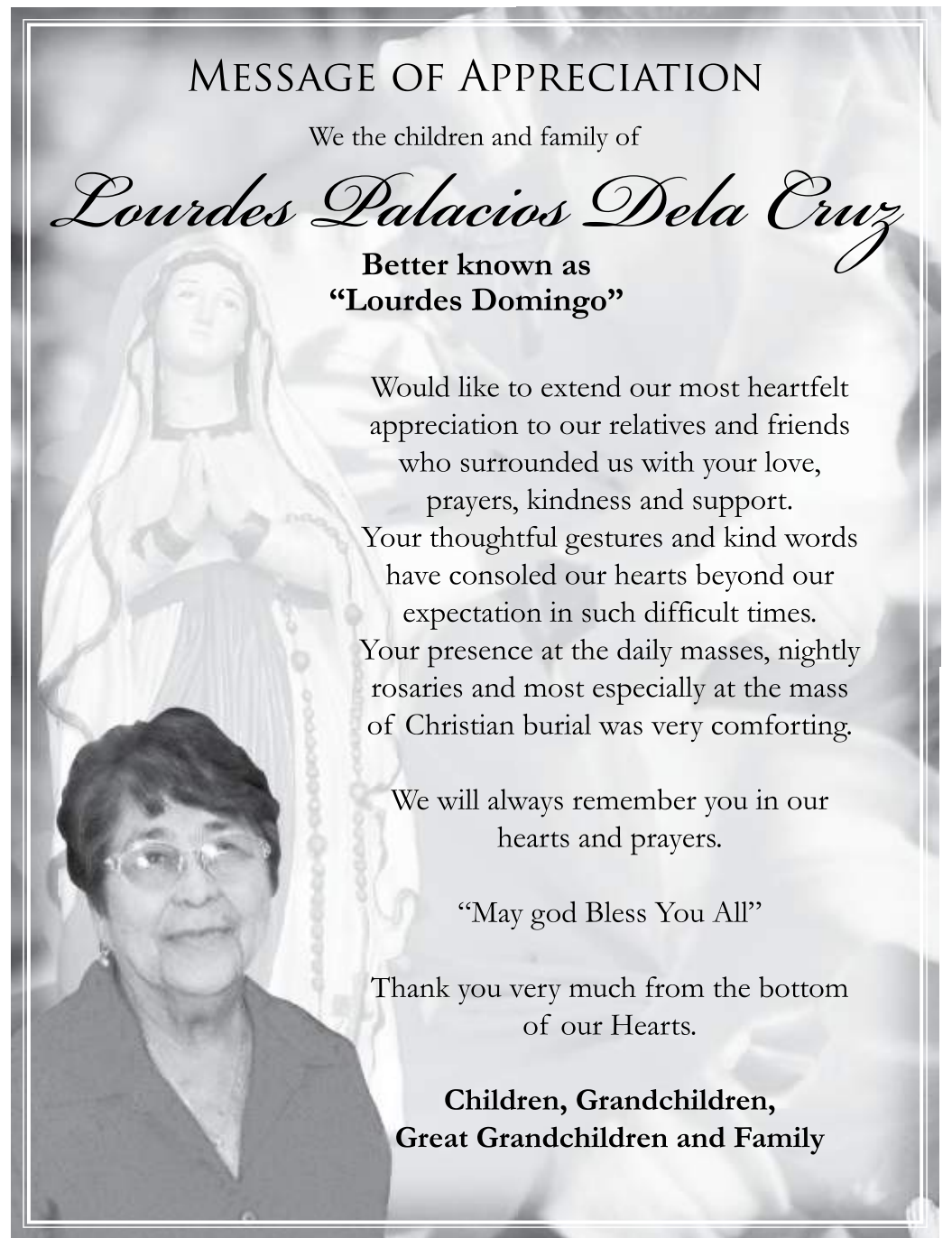
Would like to extend our most heartfelt appreciation to our relatives and friends who surrounded us with your love, prayers, kindness and support. Your thoughtful gestures and kind words have consoled our hearts beyond our expectation in such difficult times. Your presence at the daily masses, nightly rosaries and most especially at the mass of Christian burial was very comforting.

We will always remember you in our hearts and prayers.

"May god Bless You All"

Thank you very much from the bottom of our Hearts.

Children, Grandchildren,  
Great Grandchildren and Family



### Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late

**MARIA ATALIG HATTORI TENORIO**

"YUKIKO/AUNTIE TITA/MARIA BISENTE"

Would like to extend with our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to our families, relatives and friends both near and far for your assistance, for all the prayers, acts of kindness and generosity bestowed upon us during our time of sorrow. Your most comforting expressions of sympathy, kindness and thoughtfulness have deeply touched us all. We would also like to extend a sincere Thank You and Si Yu'os Ma'ase most especially to those who in one way or another have come to our

mother's aide and have given much of their time and love in visiting and meeting her needs both spiritually and physically during her life here on earth.

You will always be remembered in our prayers. May our good Lord bless you and reward each and everyone of you. God bless us all!

With love and gratitude from  
Vicente "Ben" Atoigue Tenorio, her spouse  
& her children.



## CYRILLIC

From Page 18

Cadbury, and that the Russian beers were similar to the ones I would find in a supermarket in Milwaukee. They laughed. Not unlike the rest of world that comes to China to produce what passes for a native product in their own local, the offerings on Russya street are China-made with Russian labels claiming varied countries of origin.

*Jia* is the term used for "fake," or "inauthentic," and the businessmen used the term to label

# Save the date: Wills and Kate, April 29, the Abbey

**LONDON (AP)**—Pomp and circumstance—what “Britain does best”—will rule the day when Prince William and Kate Middleton get married April 29 at Westminster Abbey.

The young couple on Tuesday rejected the notion that austere times will force them to pare down the royal festivities. The church itself is free, at least.

William and Kate ended days of suspense by choosing the abbey, a grand venue where members of the House of Windsor have been crowned, married, mourned and buried. The abbey was also the site of the funeral for William’s beloved mother, Princess Diana.

Palace officials said the two were on “cloud nine” with their wedding choice and want the nation to share their joy.

“We know that the world will be watching on the 29th of April, and the couple are very, very keen indeed that the spectacle should be a classic example of what Britain does best,” said William’s private secretary, Jamie Lowther-Pinkerton.

William and Kate chose the centuries-old abbey in central London because despite its size—it holds 2,200 people—it has a sense of intimacy, particularly at the altar, which stands at the head of a smaller,

partly enclosed space called the sanctuary.

The date—after Lent and Easter but before the 90th birthday of William’s grandfather, Prince Philip—allows the pair to have a spring wedding. It also is the feast day of St. Catherine of Siena, whose name Middleton shares.

Best of all for Brits, the day, a Friday, will be a public holiday.

St. James’ Palace, the offices of Princes William and Harry, stressed that the Middletons and the royal family would pick up the bill for the wedding—the flowers, the reception, the honeymoon—everything apart from security and transport costs. The couple say they are mindful of the country’s tough times.

Much public money already flows to Britain’s royal family. Taxpayers sent the royal household 38 million pounds (\$60 million) last year, and the queen also receives 7.9 million pounds (\$12.5 million) each year to pay for staff and other costs.

However, the family earns millions a year from its vast land and property portfolios. Prince Charles’ large estate, the Duchy of Cornwall, earned him 17 million pounds (\$29 million) last year. The royal family pays millions in tax on its earnings.

But while all parties involved in the wedding

want to ensure that a balance is struck between an enjoyable day and current budget woes, analysts such as Patrick Jephson, longtime private secretary to the late Princess Diana, say the austerity argument “doesn’t cut it.”

“This is a future king and a future queen, this is the most famous young royal in the world, and it will indubitably be compared to his mother’s wedding. So for all these reasons, the palace won’t want to be seen as downgrading it,” Jephson said.

He wondered what aspects of the pageantry of a royal wedding could be cut without disappointing masses of people.

“What do you want to lose?” he said. “The number of bridesmaids? The ride in the coach? The mounted escort? The Beefeaters? You can do it, but you’ll regret it, and people around the world will be disappointed.”

“This is about making people happy, not about wearing a hairshirt,” he said.

There’s no charge for the venue, but there will be competition for space. Many of the abbey’s seats will be allocated for diplomatic and protocol reasons, leaving relatively few for the people William and Kate really want to invite.

People around the world are awaiting the spectacle, including Reza Mohammadhani, 41, from Los Angeles, who was outside the historic church on Tuesday.

“I love the whole kingdom thing,” he said.

The abbey has centuries of royal history. Queen

Elizabeth II was married there, as was her mother.

But the newlyweds-to-be also have to confront a host of difficult memories associated with the abbey. William was 15 when he walked behind his mother’s coffin at Diana’s funeral in the abbey in September 1997.

“It must be hard for William to be in the abbey, but it’s just another way to keep his mother with him I suppose,” said Jackie Lentendre, 33, a mother from West Brompton in southwest London.

Several other members of William’s family have wed there, including the queen’s sister, Princess Margaret, in 1960, William’s aunt Princess Anne in 1973 and his uncle Prince Andrew in 1986. All three marriages ended in divorce.

No matter what, it beats getting married at St. Paul’s, a gorgeous London landmark tarnished by echoes of Prince Charles’ and Diana’s fairytale wedding in 1981 and their subsequent unhappy marriage.

“I think it’s a good choice for her not to go in Diana’s footsteps,” said Marlene Bache, a 38-year-old Danish tourist outside the abbey. Diana “was an icon, and now she’s dead. I think (Kate) should be herself.”

The choice—and the date—are William and Kate’s first moves to put their own stamp on their big day. The couple, who Lowther-Pinkerton described as being “over the moon,” are taking an active role in planning all the details.

“I’ve never seen two happier people,” he said.

## Jennifer Grey named ‘Dancing’ champ

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Jennifer Grey was named the new “Dancing With the Stars” champ, despite painful neck and back injuries and a voting bloc for Bristol Palin.

The 50-year-old actress, whose performances were almost always flawless during the season, beat out last-place finisher Palin Tuesday on the hit ABC show and actor Kyle Massey, who came in second.

Grey and professional partner Derek Hough earned a string of perfect scores on their way to the mirrorball trophy. The couple consistently topped the judges’ leaderboard throughout the season, but Palin’s cadre of voter support led to some surprising upsets, including Brandy’s elimination after earning a perfect score last week.

Palin’s improbable run to the finals had been championed by some conservative bloggers running get-out-the-vote campaigns. She came into the season finale in last place and said she was leaving her fate to the voters.

“Going out there and winning this would mean a lot. It would be like a big middle finger to all the people out there that hate my mom and hate me,” Sarah Palin’s daughter said during Tuesday’s show, which featured a reunion of the season’s cast members and performances from Christina Aguilera.

Grey went into Tuesday’s telecast in first place and effortlessly remained there.

Palin made it to the finals despite mediocre and at times poor performances. She said it was challenging to overcome the flurry of media coverage that erupted when she was voted in over Brandy—who had received a perfect score for her tango—on the hit show, prompting some viewers to question



AP  
In a photo provided by ABC, Jennifer Grey, right, and Derek Hough pose with the mirror ball trophy Tuesday Jan. 23, 2010 in Los Angeles after winning the “Dancing With the Stars” competition on ABC.

the veracity of the “Dancing” voting system.

“Dancing” producers said Tuesday that “a record amount of activity” overloaded its online and telephone voting systems after Monday’s episode.

“Some viewers reported experiencing difficulties registering their votes for the ‘Dancing With the Stars’ finale, which affected each finalist equally,” show producers said in a state-

ment. “The issue was promptly addressed” and voting times were not extended.

The judges had the final say Tuesday, when each of the three finalists performed two last dances for judges’ scores. Viewer votes counted for half of each competitor’s overall total.

The season’s contestants got to perform one last number, with Brandy receiving a standing ovation for her two-step.

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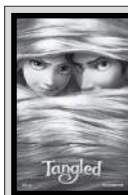
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**Tangled**  
 Thursday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40  
**Mandi Moore, Zachary Levi**  
 Children's, Family • Rated PG

### Synopsis

The classic Brothers Grimm fairy tale gets a lavish CG makeover as directors Glen Keane and Dean Wellins team to tell the tale of a fair-haired beauty with long-flowing locks, a gallant hero with a heart of gold, and the evil witch who plots to keep these lovelorn innocents apart.



**Faster**  
 Thursday 1:30 4:30 7:20 9:55  
**Dwayne Johnson, Billy Bob Thornton**  
 Action, Drama • Rated R



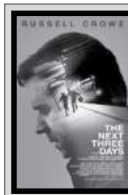
**Burlesque**  
 Thursday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45  
**Cher, Christina Aguilera**  
 Musical • Rated PG 13



**Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows 1**  
 Thursday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00  
**Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson**  
 Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG 13

### Synopsis

The final chapter of the Harry Potter saga comes to the screen in this feature adaptation of the popular novel by children's fantasy author J.K. Rowling, with series veterans Steve Kloves and David Yates writing and directing, respectively. The Deathly Hallows will be split up into two films, with Part 2 set for release six months later.



**The Next Three Days**  
 Thursday 4:10 9:50  
**Russel Crowe, Elizabeth Banks**  
 Thriller • Rated PG 13



**Skyline**  
 Thursday 1:10 7:10  
**Donald Faison, Eric Balfour**  
 Science, Fiction • Rated PG 13



**Unstoppable**  
 Thursday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35  
**Denzel Washington, Chris Pine**  
 Action • Rated PG 13



**Megamind**  
 Thursday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30  
**Will Farrell, Tina Fey**  
 Comedy, Children's/Family • Rated PG

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# Putin praises DiCaprio as tiger pledge signed

**ST. PETERSBURG, Russia** (AP)—Leonardo DiCaprio braved scary skies to get to a summit devoted to saving the world's tigers, donating \$1 million to the cause and earning high praise from Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

The Hollywood star arrived in St. Petersburg on Tuesday after two flight dramas, Putin said, just managing to make the meeting where officials from the 13 countries where tigers still live in the wild agreed to a program to save the iconic big cats from extinction.

DiCaprio was one of more than 200 people aboard a Moscow-bound Delta airlines flight that had to return to New York's John F. Kennedy airport Sunday when other pilots reported seeing a flash in one engine of the departing plane. The actor then took a private jet that had to land in Finland early Tuesday for refueling because of strong wind, Putin said.

"Not everyone would be willing to take a plane again after what Mr. DiCaprio experienced, but he did," he told the audience at a rock concert dedicated to the tiger conservation effort. "Here, in Russia, we call such a person a 'real man.'"

"If wildlife and tiger conservation is in the hands of people with such character, we are destined to succeed," he said.

DiCaprio, who watched Pu-



AP  
In this July 21, 2010 file photo, actor Leonardo DiCaprio poses for photographers during a news conference for "Inception" in Tokyo, Japan.

tin at St. Petersburg's historic Mikhailovsky theater, committed \$1 million to World Wildlife Fund to help support anti-poaching efforts and protect tiger habitat, the group said in a statement Tuesday. DiCaprio has already helped the group raise \$20 million for tiger conservation earlier this year, it said.

The number of tigers worldwide has plunged some 95 percent over the past century, to just 3,200 tigers living in the wild. The Global Tiger Recovery Program estimates the 13 nations countries will need about \$350 million in outside funding in the first five years of the 12-year plan. The countries—including Russia,

whose Far East is home to Siberian tigers, the largest tiger subspecies—have agreed to double the tiger population by 2022, crack down on poaching and illicit trade in tiger pelts and body parts.

Many of them, such as Laos, Bangladesh and Nepal, are impoverished, and saving tigers may depend on sizable donations from the West. The nations will be seeking donor commitments to help finance conservation measures, the agreement said.

"The goal is difficult, but achievable," said Putin, who has frequently used tigers to bolster his macho image, once shooting a full grown female tiger with a tranquilizer gun and placing a tracking collar on her.

He said Russia could help revive tiger populations in neighboring countries such as Iran and Kazakhstan.

Russia was the only nation where the number of tigers has increased in recent decades—from several dozens in 1947 to some 500 now, Putin said.

Wildlife experts say, however, that Siberian tigers are still endangered. Their pelts, bones and meat are prized in traditional Chinese medicine, and some 100 of them are killed annually to be smuggled to China, a senior inspector from a natural preserve in the Primorsky region said.

## Teen fears job prospects are deflated by her four piercings

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



**DEAR ABBY:** I am a teenage girl about to start looking for my first job. I have four facial piercings and I feel they may be detrimental to finding one.

I have researched effective ways of hiding my choices in jewelry. My question is, during an interview, is it OK to ask about a company's policy on piercings? My mother thinks I shouldn't, but I feel it might be a good idea to be upfront about the way I like to look.

Taking the piercings out is not an option. I have invested too much time, energy, money and pain. The fact that I can keep my piercings clean and healthy should speak for my level of responsibility. I would love some advice, Abby.

BEJEWELED IN OTTAWA

**DEAR BEJEWELED:** Many businesses and companies have strict codes that cover how they want their employees to look while representing them. Regardless of how clean you keep your body jewelry, if you don't fit their "brand" image, you will not qualify.

Because you have too much invested in your piercings to remove them, my advice is to interview with companies that are involved in the arts, fashion, media and Internet technology. They cater to a younger, more liberal demographic, and you will be free to be more yourself than have to project a corporate image.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My question has to do with gift giving and receiving. My mother-in-law has a standard reaction after she is given a gift. She scrunches up her face and starts yelling, "I thought I told you no gifties." It's not a polite, "I wish you hadn't spent your money on me." She then proceeds to open the package and starts complaining about the tape, ribbons, etc., her standard comments being, "Do you have any tape left at your house?" or, "I know who wrapped this one!" directed at me. Then she says, "What am I supposed to do with this?" or some other put-down.

I have found myself offering gifts at other times of the year—something to keep her warm or that she needs—always unwrapped and casually delivered. My question is, "What's wrong with me?"

"NO GIFTIES" IN GRAHAM, WASH.

**DEAR "NO GIFTIES":** What's "wrong" with you is you're a glutton for punishment. This year, take your mother-in-law at her word and "surprise" her by giving her what she has said she wanted all these years: nothing. Then she'll be speechless.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been dating "Ronald" exclusively for eight months. I invited him to our family Thanksgiving dinner and he accepted, but then he decided to go to his brother's instead. (They invited him two weeks after I had asked him.)

Shouldn't couples be together for the holidays, or am I asking too much? Ronald has met my parents, but I have yet to meet any of his family. Is this a sign that he just doesn't care?

DISAPPOINTED IN MICHIGAN

**DEAR DISAPPOINTED:** Let me put it this way: It's a sign that Ronald doesn't care as much as you do.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

## SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

### Cowell says Tyler is a perfect 'Idol' replacement

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Former "American Idol" judge Simon Cowell says he's happy that Steven Tyler will take his place. Cowell says, "I always said it had to be someone who wasn't better looking than me and they achieved it." He poked fun at Tyler before collecting the Founders Awards at the International Emmy Awards in New York on Monday night. Cowell said the Aerosmith frontman seems like a nice guy, and Randy Jackson told him they were having a lot of fun. He believes Tyler can adequately fill his shoes, but stopped short of saying the rock star would damage his credibility being on the show. Cowell says the role of judge is something that Tyler wants to do and that "it's a fun job. You got to take it like that. You can't take it too seriously."

### 'Buffy' remake in the works at Warner Bros.

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Vampires, beware: Buffy is coming back. A remake of the horror comedy "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" is in the works at Warner Bros., the studio said Tuesday. A studio spokeswoman says the project is in the earliest stages of development. It hasn't even been green-lit yet, and there's no director or star attached. One thing we do know: Joss Whedon, who wrote the first "Buffy" script and created the TV series starring Sarah Michelle Gellar that became a pop-culture phenomenon, is not involved. The new script comes from Whit Anderson, a 29-year-old actress-turned-writer. The original 1992 movie starred Kristy Swanson as a teenager who learns it's her destiny to battle vampires.

### Me want 'SNL'! Cookie Monster auditions on YouTube

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Me want "Saturday

Night Live!" Cookie Monster has made an audition tape to convince "SNL" that he can host the show. "Sesame Street" posted the video Wednesday on YouTube and Facebook. Introducing the tape, Cookie Monster says he wants to "branch out beyond me cookie-eating career." The four-minute video follows with Cookie Monster doing a run-through of an episode of "Saturday Night Live." He performs a brief opening monologue, a "MacGruber"-like sketch dubbed "Macarooner," a few "Weekend Update" jokes and a musical guest appearance as "Monster Gaga." Cookie Monster likely wants to follow Betty White's lead. The 88-year-old White hosted an episode of "SNL" earlier this year after a Facebook campaign urged such casting. NBC did not comment.

### Taylor Swift tackles 4 continents on 2011 tour

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—Taylor Swift will be hitting the road again in early 2011 with an ambitious schedule that includes 19 countries on four continents. Swift announced plans for an 87-date tour in a news release Tuesday that includes six stadium dates in the United States. The tour kicks off Feb. 9 in Singapore, then moves on to several European dates in March. The U.S. leg starts May 27 in Omaha, Neb. Swift will then hit Australia and New Zealand later in the year. The 20-year-old is one of music's top concert draws, selling out all 107 dates on her wildly successful Fearless Tour in 2009-10. Swift's latest album, "Speak Now," sold more than 1 million copies in its first week of release—the best debut for an album since 2005.

### Obama kids book sells 50,000 copies in 5 days

**NEW YORK** (AP)—President Barack Obama's latest book may not outsell "The Audacity of Hope," but it's off to a good start.

Random House Children's Books announced Tuesday that "Of Thee I Sing," a picture book Obama wrote before he was president, sold 50,000 copies in its first five days. The publisher called it the fastest selling picture book in the company's history. "Of Thee I Sing" is a tribute to Jackie Robinson, George Washington and other Americans. It came out Nov. 16. Obama is donating his proceeds from it to a scholarship fund for children of disabled and fallen soldiers.

### Randy Quaid says Canada has saved his life

**VANCOUVER, British Columbia** (AP)—Randy Quaid said Tuesday if it weren't for Canada's refugee system, he and his wife would be dead. The actor made the comment Tuesday as he entered his immigration and refugee board hearing in Vancouver, where he and his wife Evi were picked up last month on an outstanding warrant in the United States. The pair quickly claimed refugee status and their hearings have been conducted amid their bizarre claims of being hunted by what they call "Hollywood star whackers."

### Palin publisher says Gawker lawsuit is settled

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Sarah Palin's publisher said Tuesday that it has settled its lawsuit against Gawker Media. Alleging copyright infringement, HarperCollins sued Gawker on Friday for posting leaked images from Palin's "America by Heart," which went on sale Tuesday. Gawker pulled the images over the weekend after a federal judge granted HarperCollins an injunction pending a Nov. 30 hearing. According to the publisher, which had sought financial damages, Gawker has agreed to keep the images off of its website. HarperCollins declined to give further details of the settlement, but said in a statement Tuesday that it was "gratified."

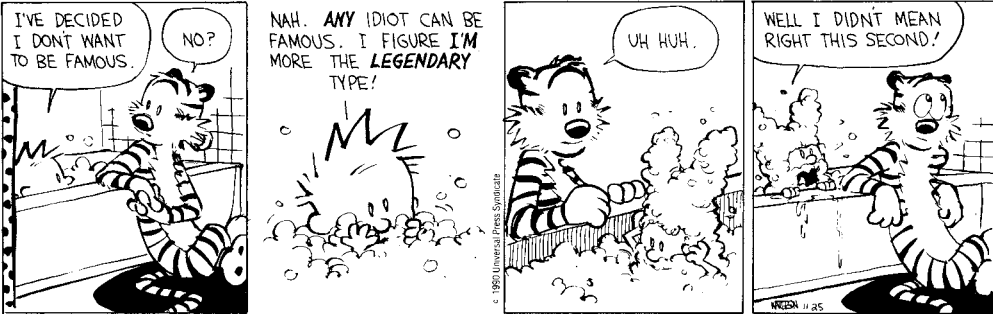
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

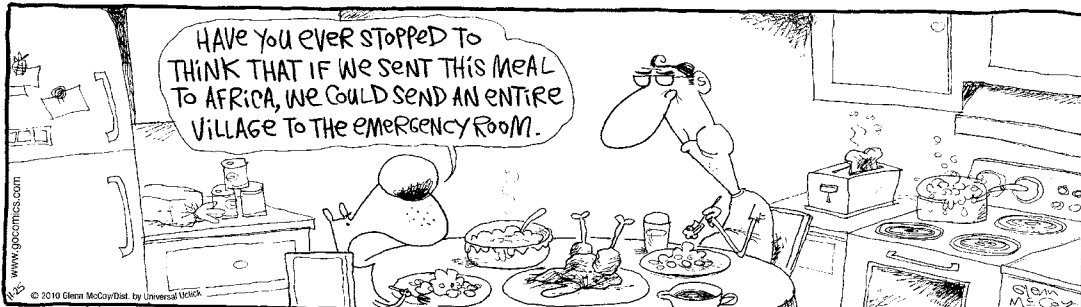
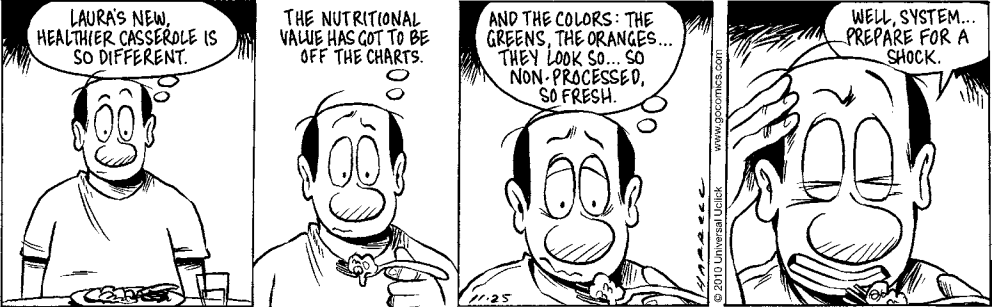


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Back talk

4 Young bovine

8 Suspend

12 Commotion

13 Stench

14 Hydrox competitor

15 Haughty strutter

17 Split

18 Tar Heels' sch.

19 Move aimlessly

21 Sans elevator

24 Catcher's place?

25 Actress Gardner

26 Filch

28 Lucy's partner in mischief

32 Virtue's opposite

34 One of the Dwarfs

36 A handful

37 Plant swelling

39 — Mahal

41 Glutton

42 Shade provider

44 Mists

46 Bright at night

50 Charged bit

51 "— Lang Syne"

52 Sucker

56 Gilligan's home

57 Screenwriter James

58 Yoko of music

59 Out of power

60 Bleak, as a movie

61 Church seat

2 Altar affirmative

3 Masses

4 Agree

5 N. modifier

6 Rich soil

7 Poultry purchase

8 Nasty nesters

9 Saharan

10 Actress Campbell

11 No stay-at-home

16 Squid squirt

20 Nay canceler

21 Greet silently

22 Eager

23 Spacecraft compartment

27 Automaton,

29 Dr. Seuss book

30 Persian Gulf noble

31 Stamina

33 Changed the text

35 Cleveland hoopster, for short

38 The whole enchilada

40 Cell overseer

43 Italian metropolis

45 Luau bowlful

46 Hotel employee

47 English river

48 Earthenware pot

49 Take-out request

53 Floral necklace

54 Individual

55 "Wham!"

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 11-25

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Donovan McNabb, 34; Christina Applegate, 39; Amy Grant, 50; John Larroquette, 63

**Happy Birthday:** Taking advantage of an opportunity will lead to a better life. Don't let emotional changes cause you to deviate from your original plans. Change can be good if you have a plan in mind that allows you to control the outcome. Use your contacts to help you win. Your numbers are 3, 14, 19, 23, 26, 38, 43

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Your personal life must get top priority. Dealing with children's or seniors' problems will give you greater perspective regarding your own life. A relationship will suffer if you don't share your thoughts. ★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Keeping a secret will add to the excitement when the surprise is revealed. You can make a valuable contact at an institution or government agency, enlightening you with regard to your own personal situation. Alterations at home will ease your financial stress. ★★★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Don't make promises you cannot keep. Taking part in functions that bring you in contact with interesting people who share your interests could cause personal problems. Someone with whom you are in partnership will need to be included. ★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You may feel as if you are being forced out of an intolerable situation. In retrospect, you will see that you have been done a favor. New opportunities are within reach, so be sure to take advantage of what's available. ★★★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Don't worry too much about what others do, say or think. Plan your own entertainment and hobbies. You are the leader and, regardless of anything else, you will be the one to make final decisions and carry on down the path you have chosen. ★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You may feel the need to put a little pressure on some of the people in your life who are letting you down. A financial situation will take a turn for the worse if you have trouble getting along with someone who owes you or can influence your income. ★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You can't change what others do or think but you can conduct your own business so that your reputation is enhanced and strong ties are built with people who can help you advance. Expect someone jealous of your skills to try and make you look bad. ★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Spend time doing something you'll enjoy or making improvements that will boost your ego and your confidence. It will help your attitude and lead to an interesting alteration with regard to the way you live your life. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Decorate your home or make a move. Whatever you do to enhance your living space will pay off, even if it initially is difficult to accomplish. Don't let your temper stand between you and someone with your best interests at heart. ★★★

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Don't give in to emotional blackmail.

**EUGENIA LAST**

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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Keep your thoughts and plans out in the open so no one can accuse you of being secretive. A problem with a partner will prevail if you cannot come to an agreement regarding a family situation. ★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Align yourself with the people you have worked with before and discuss future projects. Once you see how much interest you get, you can schedule your time suitably. A relationship can benefit you mentally, financially and legally if you make a commitment from the heart. ★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You'll be erratic and unpredictable. Impulsive decisions may appear to be what you want at the moment but, given time, you will realize you may have made a big mistake. Backtrack quickly and don't hesitate to apologize. ★★★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are adaptable, sensitive and helpful. You are serious-minded and responsible. You are an explorer.

Eugenia's Web sites: [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations, [myspace.com/eugenialast](http://myspace.com/eugenialast) for Eugenia's blog, [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

					2		6	1
			4					9
			8	7	4			
	6	2			7		4	
				1				
1		9				5	8	
		7	5		9			
6					8			
5	1		6					

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/25

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

1	2	7	4	5	9	6	3	8
5	9	6	7	3	8	2	1	4
8	4	3	1	6	2	9	5	7
7	5	9	3	2	1	4	8	6
3	8	2	6	4	7	1	9	5
6	1	4	8	9	5	7	2	3
4	7	1	2	8	3	5	6	9
2	3	5	9	7	6	8	4	1
9	6	8	5	1	4	3	7	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/24

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO Solution: 11 letters

O	S	R	K	E	G	R	A	N	D	R	I	V	E	R
W	T	A	E	T	E	A	D	U	A	E	H	T	S	O
E	A	I	N	W	T	P	U	A	H	T	I	E	R	B
S	L	T	E	D	O	B	O	K	G	N	I	K	Z	A
T	W	T	E	K	H	T	E	C	E	T	Y	A	R	V
M	A	I	H	R	H	I	K	L	I	L	T	M	F	A
O	R	D	T	C	L	C	L	C	A	H	I	E	S	R
U	T	E	A	M	E	O	I	L	O	N	C	G	C	I
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L	D	N	I	K	S	I	R	H	C	A	E	E	S	
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## Find today's solution in this section



# Lakers hold off Bulls for 5th straight win



**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Shannon Brown scored 21 points, Kobe Bryant added 20, and the Los Angeles Lakers held off the Chicago Bulls 98-91 Tuesday night for their fifth straight victory.

Lamar Odom had 21 points and eight rebounds, but the Lakers trailed early in the fourth quarter before Derrick Rose finally slowed down.

Rose scored 30 points with a series of his usual daredevil drives to the hoop, but managed just three points for the Bulls in the final period, all on free throws.

Los Angeles reserves Brown and Steve Blake led a 17-2 run that included 10 straight points, while the Bulls went more than 5 1/2 minutes between field goals late in their seventh straight loss to the Lakers.

Chicago got just one field goal and 10 points in the final 8:13.

## Mavericks 88, Pistons 84

In Dallas, for three quarters, Dirk Nowitzki was practically flying solo. Finally, he got some help down the stretch.

Nowitzki had a season-high 42 points with 12 rebounds, carrying the Dallas Mavericks to an 88-84 victory over the Detroit Pistons on Tuesday night.

Jason Terry added 16 points and Caron Butler contributed 11 points and eight rebounds to help the Mavericks to their fifth straight win over the Pistons.

Nowitzki went 13 for 23 from the field, hitting all three of his 3-point attempts, and converted 13 of 16 free throws.

"It was winning time and the big German was hot," Terry said. "He was tremendous. It never ceases to amaze me the way he's able to fill it up."

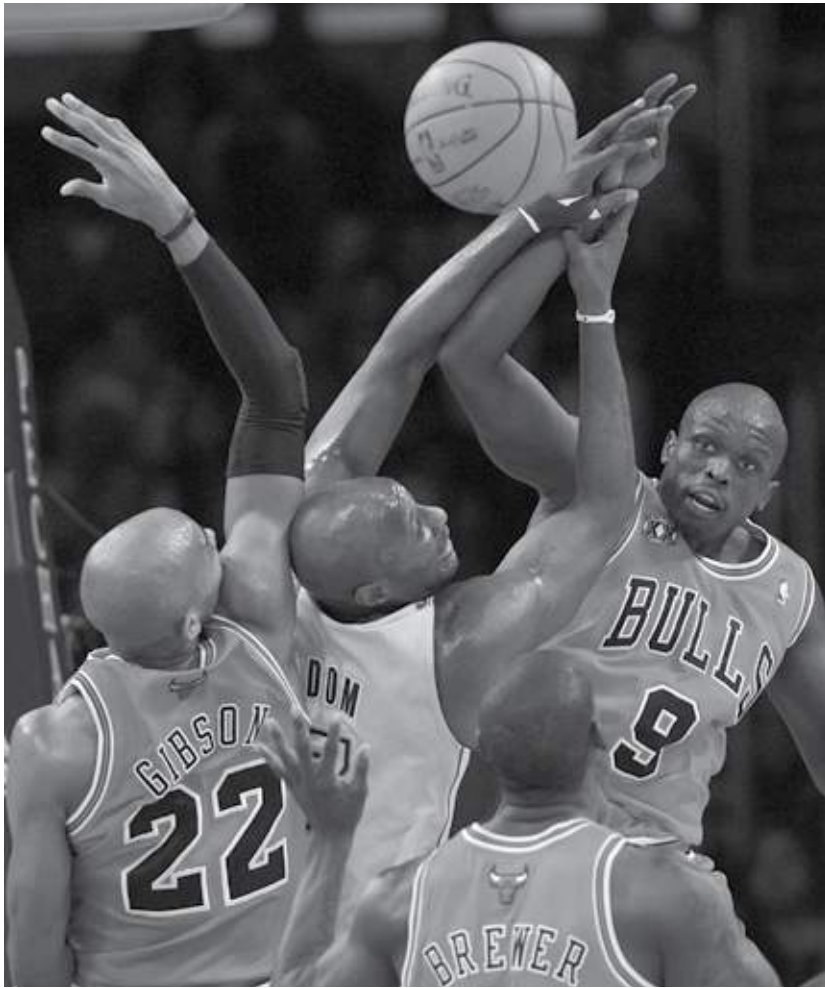
The Mavericks erased a 12-point second-half deficit. Nowitzki scored 15 and went 8 for 8 from the line in the final quarter, but Terry's nine points and Butler's seven in the last 12 minutes also were crucial.

Butler had Dallas' first six points of the fourth quarter to fuel the comeback.

"Caron got us started with some drives," Nowitzki said. "We really had to grind this one out. It wasn't pretty for a while, but got hot there at the end and made some big baskets."

Tayshaun Prince scored a season-high 19 points and Rodney Stuckey also had 19 for the Pistons.

The Mavericks were lethargic for



Los Angeles Lakers forward Lamar Odom, center, has his shot blocked by Chicago Bulls forward Luol Deng, right, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010.

much of the night before picking up their energy level down the stretch.

## Wizards 116, Sixers 114 OT

In Washington, John Wall was some 40 feet from the basket when he was fouled by Jrue Holiday with time running out and the Washington Wizards trailing by three.

The No. 1 overall pick, playing in just his ninth NBA game and returning after missing four games with a sprained left foot, knew exactly what to do. He tossed the ball toward the basket without any hesitation, making it a shooting foul that would give him three free throws.

He then sank all three with 3.5 seconds remaining to send the game to overtime, and the Wizards went on to get their second crazy victory over the Philadelphia 76ers in less than a month, winning 116-114 Tuesday night.

"I could tell how he was walking up to me that he was going to foul me,"

Wall said. "Luckily I got the call and got to shoot three free throws."

Nick Young hit an open 3-pointer with 7.6 seconds left in the extra period for the winning points, but it wouldn't have been possible if not for a Holiday gift that Philadelphia coach Doug Collins didn't want to give. It capped a collapse in which the 76ers blew a 15-point, fourth-quarter lead.

"All we had to do was just finish out the game, and we just made critical mistakes again. That's just crushing us. That's been the story of our whole first 14 games of the season," Collins said. "You've got to be careful because when a guy is running at you with the ball like that, you've got to know when he sees you coming that he's going to pick up and launch it."

Holiday didn't have much to say in his defense.

"I didn't think he was shooting the 3," Holiday said. "I honestly thought he

was going to the basket. I really wasn't trying to foul him. I just got my arm in there and he went up. It was a foul."

## Knicks 110, Bobcats 107

In New York, last time they left Madison Square Garden, the New York Knicks were a team of bad moods and worse basketball, seemingly headed on the road to nowhere.

This time, they left with a chance to get back to .500—unfamiliar territory for a team coming off nine straight losing seasons.

Toney Douglas scored 22 points, and the Knicks won their fourth straight game, beating the Charlotte Bobcats 110-107 on Tuesday night in the opener of a home-and-home series.

Amare Stoudemire added 17 while battling foul trouble for the Knicks, who won the final three games on their road trip and kept rolling right through most of this one. They blew nearly all of a 16-point lead before holding on for their longest winning streak since taking four straight last Dec. 4-11.

Raymond Felton made the clinching free throws against his former team as New York (7-8) put six players in double figures. The Knicks can get back to .500 with a victory at Charlotte on Wednesday.

"It's great, it lets you know we're getting our confidence, especially down the stretch. So we've just got to continue to keep that confidence high," said Stoudemire, in good spirits after seeming despondent last time he spoke in front of his locker, when a loss to Houston on Nov. 14 was the fifth in a streak of six straight losses.

"A night like tonight, guys stepped up big in the fourth, which was big for us because I got in a little foul trouble out there, and they stepped up. So we've got to go to Charlotte and try to do it again."

## Pacers 100, Cavaliers 89

In Indianapolis, Danny Granger and the Indiana Pacers picked up right where they left off from South Beach.

Granger scored 24 points and the Pacers beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 100-89 on Tuesday night, building on their impressive victory over LeBron James and Miami.

Granger got off to a slow start but

scored 10 points in the second quarter as Indiana expanded an eight-point lead into a 62-37 margin at halftime.

"This had to be a big win for us because we came off of a good road game," Granger said. "And it means nothing if you come back and lose."

Granger made only 6 of 21 shots in Indiana's 93-77 victory over the Heat on Monday. But Granger also had 11 rebounds and six assists, and Brandon Rush added 20 points in the impressive road win.

Back at home against James' former team, it was more of the same.

"We definitely carried it over from last night," said Rush, who scored 16 against the Cavaliers. "It was definitely big. It was definitely important for us not to let that win get over our heads. We didn't want to lay an egg."

Ramon Sessions had 15 points, six rebounds and five assists for Cleveland (5-8), which lost its third consecutive game.

## Nets 107, Hawks 101

In Newark, during the New Jersey Nets' recent four-game road trip, Avery Johnson didn't hesitate to call out Brook Lopez and Devin Harris when things went wrong.

When you're the best players on a so-so team, you need to step up.

Lopez and Harris did that in the Nets' first game back in New Jersey.

Lopez scored a season-high 32 points, Harris added 23 of his 27 in the second half and took a big charge in overtime as the Nets snapped a three-game losing streak with a 107-101 win over the slumping Atlanta Hawks on Tuesday night.

"They've been challenged behind the scenes," Johnson said. "Two guys that we rely heavily upon came through. Now what I'm showing them is if they can consistently have that aggression and that attacking attitude, it makes us a better ball club. They don't have many nights with this team where they can take off."

Lopez, who was 12 of 19 from the field, led the team in the first half with 21 points. Harris stepped up in the final 29 minutes after being limited to four points in the opening half.

"We take the most criticism, but obviously it's because we're important and we know that we need to play well in order for this team to be successful," said Harris, who combined with Lopez on a 5-0 spurt to open the extra session.

# Fisher: Young not welcome at team meeting



**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)** -- Tennessee coach Jeff Fisher says though he had an assistant tell Vince Young not to attend a team meeting, the quarterback has not been banned from the team's headquarters.

"I went to look for Vince in the locker room prior to a team meeting, couldn't find him. I had one of my assistants inform Vince he was not welcome in the team meeting for obvious reasons," Fisher said Tuesday night on his weekly radio show. "I discussed the situation that happened the night before" at the meeting.

Young's teammates witnessed the heated exchange between the quarterback and coach in the locker room after Sunday's overtime loss to Washington. Young, who had tossed his pads into the stands when leaving the field, then stormed out of the stadium.

Fisher said what happens in the locker room after a game is supposed to be confidential.

"We had an incident in the locker room, and it was very unfortunate. It's been well documented,"

Fisher said. "As a result of not only the incident in the locker room but also more importantly the injury to Vince's thumb, Vince is not going to play anymore this season."

The quarterback needs season-ending surgery, and Fisher said that involves inserting a pin to help the flexor tendon heal.

But Young's situation is more complicated than the injury.

The Titans placed Young on injured reserve Tuesday even as media reports surfaced that the quarterback wasn't welcome at the team's headquarters and had been told to leave. The team issued a statement a couple hours after the first report, saying Young had been told not to attend the team meeting and was free to leave.

Fisher said Young is on injured reserve, and that such players are permitted in the building. Players on injured reserve work with team trainers on their rehabilitation.

"There's been speculation he was banned from the building. That was not correct," said Fisher, who added that he would not address Young's

situation again after Tuesday night.

Young could not be immediately reached Tuesday, nor his agent, Tom Condon, who was traveling and unavailable.

The statement Tuesday called the first report by The Tennessean "incorrect." The Tennessean, citing unidentified sources, said Young was in the training room Monday when asked to leave the facility by the quarterbacks coach and told he wasn't wanted in the building after what happened Sunday. The newspaper said Young left without incident.

The Titans can't ban Young from team property, not with his contract running through 2011.

The franchise learned that lesson in 2006 when Steve McNair won a grievance after an arbitrator ruled his contract had been breached when the team barred him from working out at the facility. Team officials had worried about being on the hook for a \$23.4 million salary cap hit if he got hurt.

Complicating the Young situation even more is that while his relationship with Fish-

er seems likely beyond repair at this point, owner Bud Adams told The Tennessean on Monday that he wants his quarterback and coach to work together.

But Fisher had said Young wouldn't start Sunday against Houston even if healthy after his latest meltdown. Fisher hasn't talked to Young since the quarterback left the stadium. He called Young's agent to pass on the news that his season was being ended by being placed on injured reserve. It doesn't sound as if Fisher is in a hurry to speak to Young either, not with seven games remaining and the Titans (5-5) just a game out of the AFC South.

The coach said Monday the issue of whether Young will ever play for him again will be dealt with when the season's over.

"I think there will be a conversation at some point. I'm not going to put a timetable on it. He's on injured reserve, and we're moving on," Fisher said.

The Titans officially signed Chris Simms to back up Smith on Tuesday. They also activated LB David Thornton, who spent the first part of the season on the physically-unable-to-perform list, and waived G Ryan Durand.

# Texas' Hamilton easily wins AL MVP award

NEW YORK (AP)—Josh Hamilton thought back to the days when his career was derailed by drugs and alcohol.

"I would say a 99 percent chance that this would never happen," he said. "I mean, honestly, I think a lot of people would agree with that."

In one of baseball's most inspirational turnarounds, the Texas Rangers outfielder was a runaway winner of the American League's Most Valuable Player award Tuesday. Hamilton received 22 first-place votes and 358 points from the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Former Cincinnati Reds teammate Joey Votto was voted the NL MVP a day earlier.

Hamilton overcame eight trips to rehabilitation for addiction to lead the major leagues in batting average (.359) and slugging percentage (.633) and help the Rangers reach their first World Series. He had 32 homers and 100 RBIs despite missing time nearly all of September because of two broken ribs.

After going on the disabled list in 2001 while in the minors, he became addicted to alcohol and cocaine. He didn't play from 2003-05.

"I do reflect. If I didn't reflect, 'I' might start sneaking in there, a little ego might start sneaking in there, and that's one thing I don't want to happen," Hamilton said. "So I do reflect and I think about where I was at my lowest time."

Teammates say his story motivates them.

"It's awesome, everybody makes mistakes in their lives and everybody deserves a second chance," Rangers teammate David Murphy said before voting was announced. "A lot of people don't take advantage of that second



Texas Rangers center fielder Josh Hamilton gestures during a news conference after winning the American League's Most Valuable Player award on Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010, in Arlington, Texas.

chance. But he took it and he ran with it."

After voting was concluded, Hamilton was selected MVP of the AL championship series win over the Yankees. Overall, he hit .190 in the postseason with five homers and nine RBIs.

"There were other guys around the league who had great years, but seeing Josh, what he was able to do, it's pretty impressive," teammate Michael Young said. "You don't see guys go three-month stretches where they hit .400, it's just too difficult to do."

Hamilton is the sixth Rangers MVP, following Jeff Burroughs (1974), Juan Gonzalez (1996, 1998), Ivan Rodriguez

(1999) and Alex Rodriguez (2003).

In the NL, Votto helped the Reds make the postseason for the first time since 1995. He and Hamilton were Cincinnati teammates in 2007.

"He was just what everybody expected him to be," Hamilton said. "I knew he was a great player and knew what he was capable of, and he showed people this year exactly that."

Selected by Tampa Bay with the top pick in the 1999 amateur draft, Hamilton didn't make an impact in the majors until 2008, when he won the All-Star Home Run Derby at Yankee Stadium and led the AL with 130 RBIs.

Injuries limited Hamilton to 89 games the following year,

## Jeter, Rivera, Ramirez fail to receive arbitration

NEW YORK (AP)—Derek Jeter, Mariano Rivera, Manny Ramirez failed to receive salary arbitration offers as one of the first deadlines of baseball's offseason passed.

Texas pitcher Cliff Lee, Philadelphia outfielder Jayson Werth and Washington first baseman Adam Dunn did receive arbitration offers. If they sign with new teams, their old clubs would receive extra picks in next June's amateur draft as compensation.

While the elite free agents are still on the market, San Francisco kept first baseman Aubrey Huff, agreeing to a \$22 million, two-year contract after he helped the Giants win the World Series for the first time since 1954.

And catcher Victor Martinez reached a preliminary agreement on a \$50 million, four-year contract with the Detroit Tigers, a person familiar with the agreement told The Associated Press on Tuesday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal, which was subject to a physical, had not yet been announced.

New York has made a \$45 million, three-year offer to Jeter, a baseball executive with knowledge of the proposal said, speaking on condition of anonymity because it wasn't made public. Jeter is coming off a \$189 million, 10-year contract.

"As much as we want to keep everybody, we've already made these guys very, very rich, and I don't feel we

owe anybody anything monetarily," Yankees co-chairman Hank Steinbrenner said. "Some of these players are wealthier than their bosses."

Huff took a short break to decompress after the World Series, then agreed to a contract with the World Series champions that pays him \$10 million in each of the next two seasons. The Giants have a \$10 million club option for 2013 with a \$2 million buyout.

"There was a big interest out there. But in the end, it wasn't going to take much to come back here for me," Huff said. "Some other team would have had to blow me away with like a four-year deal or something and a lot, a lot of dough to stay away from here."

## Cincinnati's Votto takes NL MVP



Cincinnati Reds first baseman Joey Votto scratches his head as he speaks to the media in Sarasota, Fla., Monday, Nov. 22, 2010, after being named the National League Most Valuable Player.

NEW YORK (AP)—Cincinnati's Joey Votto was overwhelmingly elected the National League's Most Valuable Player on Monday, ending the two-year reign of Albert Pujols.

Votto, a first baseman who helped the Reds reach the postseason for the first time in 15 years, received 31 of 32 first-place votes and 443 points in voting announced by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Votto was a first-time All-Star, finishing second in the NL in batting average at .324 and third in homers (37) and RBIs (113). He led the NL in slugging percentage (.600) and topped the major leagues in on-base percentage (.424).

Pujols, the St. Louis Cardinals' first baseman, was second with the remaining first-place vote and 279 points after winning the award in 2005, 2008 and 2009. He batted .312 and led the NL in homers (42) and

when he hit .268 with 10 homers and 54 RBIs.

Detroit's Miguel Cabrera was second with five first-place votes and 262 points after leading the AL with 126 RBIs and a .420 on-base percentage. The Yankees' Robinson Cano was next with 229 points. Toronto's Jose Bautista, who led the major leagues with 54 homers, had the remaining first-place vote and 165 points.

Bob Dutton of The Kansas City Star, Tom Gage of The Detroit News, Scot Gregor of The (Arlington Heights) Daily Herald, Jim Ingraham of The Port Clinton News-Herald and Steve Kornacki of Booth Newspapers voted Cabrera first. Shi Davidi of The Canadian Press cast the first-place vote for Bautista.

Hamilton receives a \$100,000 bonus, Cabrera \$200,000 and Paul Konerko of the Chicago White Sox \$60,000 for finishing fifth. Tampa Bay's Evan Longoria was sixth, followed by teammate Carl Crawford, and each gets \$25,000.

RBIs (118).

Colorado's Carlos Gonzalez was third with 240 points after winning the NL batting title with a .336 average. San Diego's Adrian Gonzalez (197) was fourth, followed by Colorado's Troy Tulowitzki (132) and Philadelphia pitcher Roy Halladay (130).

Balloting was completed before he went 1 for 10 with one RBI in the first-round playoff loss to Philadelphia.

He joined Ernie Lombardi (1938), Bucky Walters (1939), Frank McCormick (1940), Frank Robinson (1961), Johnny Bench (1970 and 1972), Pete Rose (1973), Joe Morgan (1975-76), George Foster (177) and Barry Larkin (1995) as Reds to win the award. The Reds' 12 MVPs are tied with the Giants for second in the NL behind the Cardinals (17). In the AL, the New York Yankees have won 20.

The AL winner will be announced Thursday. Josh Hamilton of Texas is the front-runner.

Pujols has 10 straight top 10 finishes. His three wins and four second-place finishes matched those of Cardinals Hall of Famer Stan Musial.

Votto, a bargain with a \$525,000 salary, will be eligible for arbitration for the first time. Neither Votto nor Gonzalez (\$406,000) had MVP bonus provisions. Pujols gets \$50,000 for finishing third. By finishing fourth, Adrian Gonzalez gets a \$100,000 raise to \$6.3 million next season.

# Kosam claims RGA December Ace

By WALTER SUTHERLAND  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Jordan Kosam secured the Refaluwasch Golfers Association December Ace of the Month last Saturday after shooting a net 69 at Coral Ocean Point Golf.

Kosam's 69 was two strokes better than the December Ace score to beat (71), which he himself recorded during a qualifying tournament early this month. The 12-handicapper carded a 38 on the front and finished with an 43 on the back nine for a gross 81.

With the RGA president winning the De-

cember Ace, he now qualifies for the club championship that will be played on Dec. 18 and 19.

Kosam will vie for the club championship and the Plasido M. Tagabuel trophy against Jun Yi Piao (January Ace), Saures (February), Nick Leon Guerrero (March), Carl Hocog (April), Xian Lai Cue (May), Jesse Seman (June), Olopai (July), Jess Wabol (August), Tigilau (September), Tony, Satur (October), and Bae Yong Man (November).

Kosam's net 69 was the second best score in the weekend tournament, two shots behind top finisher Seman (67). Seman was disqualified from taking the December Ace, as he had already won the

monthly award in June.

Eleven other RGA members joined the December tournament. The list include Olopai (70), Piao (70), Saures (71), Satur (72), Dwaine Stephens (73), Joe Wabol (74) Manny Mangarero (75), Tony Rogolifo (77), Nick Sablan (78), Tigilau (78), Tom Tebuteb (81), and Ulysis Kapileo (86).

Olopai won the closest to the pin honors on hole No. 7, while Joe Wabol had the same feat on hole No. 14.

Meanwhile, the 2010 RGA Family Fun Day is scheduled for December 11 with the venue to be announced soon. For more information about RGA, contact Kosam at 483-3111 or email at jkosam0007@gmail.com.



Kosam

## Pacquiao asserts himself as pay-per-view star



**NEW YORK (AP)**—Manny Pacquiao is not simply the best boxer in the world. He's also the sport's biggest box office attraction.

Pacquiao's comprehensive destruction of Antonio Margarito for a vacant junior middle-weight title on Nov. 13 at Cowboys Stadium generated at least 1.15 million buys and \$64 million domestic revenue, according to figures announced Tuesday by HBO Sports.

Those numbers are expected to increase slightly once all the figures are counted, but Pacquiao already is assured of his third straight year with at least one fight breaking the 1 million mark.

"It wasn't even on the right-hand side of the computer spreadsheet," said HBO vice president Mark Taffet, whose job includes handling pay-per-view broadcasts, when asked whether the numbers exceeded his expectations. "It's

an outstanding number."

Pacquiao's victory over Oscar De La Hoya in 2008 generated 1.25 million buys, and his knockout of Miguel Cotto last year did 1.2 million. Taffet said his last five fights combined have generated at least 5.1 million buys, putting Pacquiao on par with De La Hoya, Evander Holyfield, Mike Tyson and Floyd Mayweather Jr. as the biggest earners in pay-per-view history.

Of that group, the Filipino icon is the only non-American.

"He's become a world figure, that's what differentiates it from the superstars that preceded him," Taffet said. "And his coverage is not just in sports media. He's transcended sport, to the point where he's the first non-American to generate these kinds of numbers."

Pacquiao also generated 700,000 buys for a lopsided decision earlier this year over Joshua Clottey, a fighter who has virtually

no name recognition beyond the most ardent boxing fans.

Those same fans are hoping the next fight for Pacquiao is against someone virtually everybody recognizes: Mayweather. The two sides have failed twice to reach an agreement on what could be the richest fight in boxing history, and now with Mayweather's legal trouble in Las Vegas, the matchup is looking increasingly unlikely for next year.

"Mayweather, it can't be compared to any other fight that can conceivably be made," said Top Rank promoter Bob Arum, comparing the fight to the Muhammad Ali-Joe Frazier fight in 1971.

"That fight would be like the Ali-Frazier of our time. And you know, Ali-Frazier in 1971 was the biggest fight really of all time, at that point. The same thing would be said for Manny and Floyd this time, but you know, it takes two to make the fight."

## MP UNITED

From Page 28

Dec. 4 against Paire Red and a draw will give the former the first finals berth.

### Paire Black 2, Paire Red 0

Paire Black and Paire Red are in a deadlock for second place in the four-team upper bracket, following

the former's 2-0 win over the later.

After two games, the sister teams share identical 1-0-1 win-draw-loss records. Paire Black has a slight edge in the tiebreak with its four goals scored against Paire Red's two.

### Matansa 7, Independents 1

In the three-team lower bracket game, Matansa whipped Independents, 7-1, to grab the top spot

in their group.

Independents, which won over Shirley's Coffee Shop, 4-1, in Week 1 of the playoffs, dropped to second place. Independents has earned three points and has scored five goals against Matansa's seven.

Shirley's, which finished last in the regular season, is still in last place in the lower half bracket with a 0-0-1 slate. The newest club in the NMIFA family will

play its last game in the playoffs on Dec. 4 against Matansa.

The championship game in the boys U14 division will be played on Dec. 11.

### Girls U14 Matansa 3, Tan Holdings 0

In the last game in the regular season of the girls U14 at the Hopwood pitch, Matansa shut out Tan Holdings FC, 3-0.

Matansa ended the three-round robin elimination with an 8-1-0 record to claim the first finals seat.

Paire Football Club, which forced a 0-0 draw against MP United last Saturday, took the second finals ticket after fin-

ishing the elimination round with a 3-4-2 slate. MP United and Tan Holdings will duel for the third place trophy on Dec. 11, while Paire and Matansa will battle for the girls U14 championship after the consolation match.

## ARMATECH

From Page 28

land Apparel to just 15 points in the playoff period.

Ebuen top-scored for Armatech with 22 points, while Lizama had 30 on the losing end.

In the 45A matchup, Top 45 broke away in the second half to bury the Undertakers, 92-63.

Tony Luzama paced Top 45 with six points in the opening period, lifting his team to a 17-14 lead.

Then both teams traded baskets in the second quarter as this

contest remained close at the break, 34-31, for Top 45. Danny Bicera came off the bench for Top 45 and delivered six markers to keep Undertakers at bay. Joe Pangelinan led Undertakers with 12 points in the first half.

Top 45 put in an extra gear in the third quarter and jolted ahead by double digits, 65-48. Ed Cosino led the charge with eight markers in the third, as Top 45 tallied 31 points in that period.

Luzama added eight more points in the fourth quarter, as Top 45 ran away with the easy win in the end. Luzama finished with a game-high 22

points, while Pangelinan turned in a team-high 17 in the loss.

Meanwhile, after Thanksgiving, the Masters Cup will continue on Tuesday with a 45A match-up between Ferrera Builders (0-1) and X-Clusive (0-1) at 6:30pm and a 40A pairing between Armatech (2-0) and Felix Palacios' Team (0-0) at 8pm.

### First Game

**Top 45 92** – Luzama 22, Cosino 14, Berline 13, Bicera 8, Palacios 8, Takai 8, Diaz 7, Rangamar 6, Basa 4, O. Masga 2.

**Undertakers 63** – Pangeli-

recently finished the 1,200km MTB Crocodile Trophy Race

The two Aussies will join more than 100 riders in next month's "Hell," which will have competition in solo division, two-person, and four-person team.

The race will begin at 6:15am at the southern parking lot of the Pacific Islands Club and cut-off time has been extended from six to seven hours. However, riders must make the 50km (Radar

Station) cut-off time of 9:45am to continue the race. Cyclists missing the halfway mark cut-off time will be disqualified and directed to return to PIC.

Bikers who have yet to register for the race have until Friday to pass their entrance forms. On race day, registration will run from 5:30am to 6am.

For more information, call PIC at 237-5130 or email at kanaequinn@yahoo.com

### Second Game

**Armatech 89** – Ebuen 22, Moreno 15, Montano 14, Tobias 10, Arenas 7, Trajano 7, Canedo 6, Mateo 6, Malasarte 2.

**Island Apparel 85** – Lizama 30, O. Masga 13, Irinaka 12, Norman 8, Sablan 7, Pangelinan 5, Cadag 4, D. Masga 3, Olivos 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 17-14, 34-31, 65-48, 92-63.

**Scoring by quarters:** 18-24, 40-47, 65-70, 89-85.

## KOREANS

From Page 28

includes Saipan A's, Budhi Gurung, T.W. Park, Simon Li and S.Y. Noh, Saipan B's Steven Lim, J.Y. Kim, B. Y. Ahn, and Guam Large Ball Table Tennis

Association president Hisamitsu Hamamoto, Tinian A's Mark Ma, Luke and Robin Lu, and Yue. Tinian B's Charlie Cheng, Su Yong Dong, and Liang Wei Bin, Korea A's Park, Cheon, and Jang, and Korea B's Jung Ho Ha, Byung Gap Ahn In Kyu Choi, and Mo.



### TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

#### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	10	4	.714	—
New York	7	8	.467	3 1/2
New Jersey	5	9	.357	5
Toronto	5	9	.357	5
Philadelphia	3	11	.214	7

#### Southeast Division

Orlando	9	4	.692	—
Miami	8	6	.571	1 1/2
Atlanta	8	7	.533	2
Washington	5	8	.385	4
Charlotte	5	9	.357	4 1/2

#### Central Division

Chicago	7	5	.583	—
Indiana	7	6	.538	1/2
Cleveland	5	8	.385	2 1/2
Milwaukee	5	8	.385	2 1/2
Detroit	5	9	.357	3

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

San Antonio	12	1	.923	—
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New Orleans	11	2	.846	1
Dallas	9	4	.692	3
Memphis	5	9	.357	7 1/2
Houston	3	10	.231	9

#### Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	10	4	.714	—
Utah	10	5	.667	1/2
Denver	8	6	.571	2
Portland	8	6	.571	2
Minnesota	4	11	.267	6 1/2

#### Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	13	2	.867	—
Golden State	7	7	.500	5 1/2
Phoenix	7	7	.500	5 1/2
Sacramento	4	9	.308	8
L.A. Clippers	2	13	.133	11

#### Yesterday's Games

Indiana 100, Cleveland 89  
New Jersey 107, Atlanta 101, OT  
Washington 116, Philadelphia 114, OT  
New York 110, Charlotte 107  
Dallas 88, Detroit 84  
L.A. Lakers 98, Chicago 91

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## TWO

From Page 28

New South Wales to the northern tablelands of Inverell.

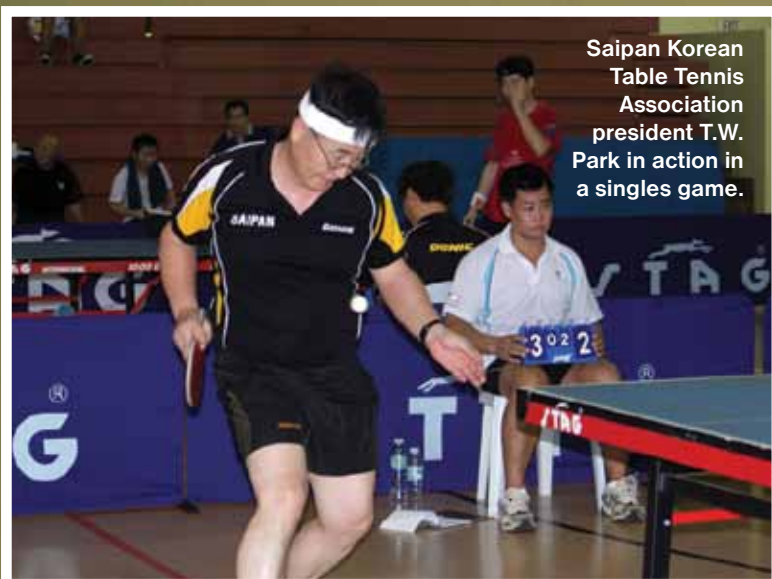
Outside the Land Down Under, Rudolph's biggest victory so far came in 2008 when he topped the Tour de Jakarta. The Australia rider completed the 167.8-km open road race in three hours, 43 minutes, and 10 seconds.

Rudolph is expected to battle the men's division race against Russia's Konstantin Fast, Korea's Seo Joon Yong and Choi Seok Yoon, Japan's Takahiro Ogasawara, and Guam's Jazy Garcia.

The other half of the pair of Aussies making their debut in "Hell" is an Elite A category rider from Cairns Cycling Club and a police officer. The 38-year-old Skerke is the team leader of Rattle 'N Hum, which

# 14th MATTA Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Saipan Korean Table Tennis Association president T.W. Park in action in a singles game.



Participants in the 14th MATTA Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament pose for a group photo at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Saturday.



Korea A's Young Chol Cheon returns the ball, while teammate Hee Yeol Park looks on during a doubles game.



Tinian's Robin Lu hits a backhand return.



Tinian's Alfred Yue returns the ball.



Tinian's Luke Lu serves.



MATTa president Steve Lim has all eyes on the ball.



Korea Team B members were awarded the third place trophy in the team event.



Team event runner-up Tinian holds its silver trophy.



Korea Team A members receive the championship trophy in the team event during the awards ceremony for the 14th MATTA Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort. Joining them are MATTa president Steve Lim, left, and Saipan Korean Table Tennis Association president T.W. Park.



28 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2010

# Saipan Tribune Sports



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Koreans dominate goodwill tournament

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Ping-pong players from Korea turned the 14th MATTA Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament into their own show after sweeping all three divisions of the competition last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



The visiting Koreans won the singles, doubles, and team event against Saipan, Tinian, and Korean Pingpong Association on Saipan players.

In the singles event, Korea A's Hee Yeol Park took the first place trophy, while teammate Young Chol Cheon and Jae Hoon Jang went home with the runner-up and third place awards, respectively.

All three Korea A players and Korea B's Jung Ho Ha won in the quarterfinals games and with time running out for the one-day tournament, the visitors decided not to play in the next round.

The organizing Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association then checked on the records in the round-robin play of the winners of the quar-

### Armatech, Top-45 still unbeaten in Masters caging

By WALTER SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER



Armatech and Top-45 remained undefeated in two games after downing separate foes in the 45A and 40A Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI Memorial Cup last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the 40A play, Armatech pulled off a late fourth-quarter comeback over Island Apparel to eke out an 89-84 victory.

Island Apparel's Ray Lizama tallied nine points in the first 10 minutes of the game to help his team build an early 24-18, lead.

Then Diego Masga kept it going for Island Apparel in the second quarter with his eight markers, while teammate Yasuhito Irinaka hit a couple of three-pointers to maintain their lead at the break, 47-40.

It was down to a five-point game, 70-65, in favor of Island Apparel, heading into the fourth quarter. Lizama added 10 more points in the third period to fend off Armatech.

Lizama collected nine more markers in the final canto to outscore Armatech's Sonny Ebuon (eight points). However, Ebuon received more support from his teammates when it counted the most. Notably, Armatech's defense showed up in the final canto and contained Is-

See ARMATECH on Page 26



Young Chol Cheon of Korea A returns to Tinian's Mark Ma during their singles game in the MATTA goodwill tournament last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

### MP United boosts finals bid



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



MP United strengthened its bid for a finals seat in the boys U14 division of the 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League after gaining its second straight playoff win last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

MP United notched its second win af-

ter shutting out Tan Holdings, 7-0. MP United now has six points to remain on top of the four-team upper bracket. Tan Holdings Football Club is at the bottom of the upper bracket and is likely out of the running for a finals berth after going 0-2 in the playoffs.

Only the Top 2 teams after the round-robin playoffs will advance to the finals.

MP United will play its last game on

See MP UNITED on Page 26

### Two Aussies to debut in 'Hell'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



The 4th Annual Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle Race will welcome

two newcomers from Australia when the lung-busting race hits the road on Dec. 4.

Making their debut in the 100-kilometer road race next month are Maryborough native Malcolm Rudolph and Cairns' Brendan Skerke. The two Australians will be tested against tough bikers from Russia, Japan, Korea, Guam, and the CNMI.

Rudolph's impressive cycling resume includes a stint with pro team Jayco Skins and Fraser Coast Cycling Club. The 21-year-old Aussie started joining competitive races when he was only 15 years old and three years later he won in the National Championship.

In 2009, he ruled the Grafton to Inverell Classic, which had riders starting the 228-km race from the north-east coast of

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